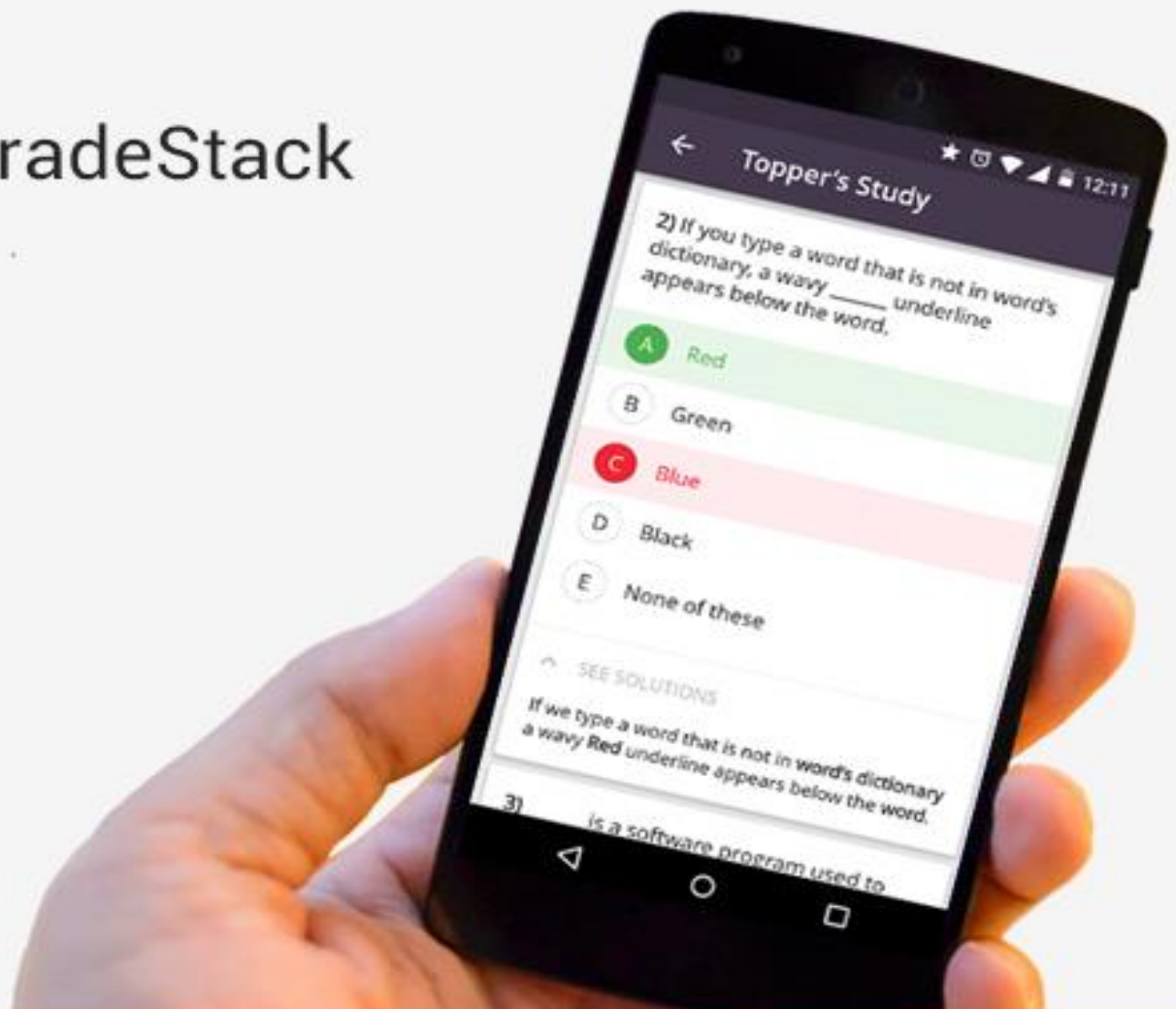


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# GK DIGEST

for IBPS PO 2015 Mains Exam

By : GradeStack



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## **GK DIGEST for IBPS PO 2015 Mains Exam**

**Dear readers,**

This GK Digest is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in last six months (June – October 2015). The GK Digest is important and relevant for all competitive exams like IBPS RRB, IBPS PO, IBPS Clerk, SSC, Insurance and UPSC Exams.

### **Banking, Economics & Financial News**

#### **RBI in the News**

- 1. RBI reduce repo rate by 50 basis points** - On 29th September 2015, the Reserve Bank of India in its fourth bi – monthly statement, keeps reduced Repo rate by 50 basis points to 6.75%. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 7.75 per cent. There has been no change in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) 4% and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) 21.5%.

#### **New Current Rates:**

<b>1.Repo Rate</b>	6.75% (changed)
<b>2.Reverse Repo</b>	5.75% (changed)
<b>3.CRR(Cash Reserve ratio)</b>	4.00% (unchanged)
<b>4.SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)</b>	21.50% (unchanged)
<b>5.MSF (Marginal Standing Facility)</b>	7.75% (changed)
<b>6.Bank Rate</b>	7.75% (changed)

Basis points - 'one' Basis Point is a unit equivalent to 0.01% i.e. 1/100th of a percent.

- 2. RBI proposed marginal cost of funds methodology to calculate Base Rate** - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a new methodology to calculate Base Rate (Base Rate). It is based on **marginal cost of funds methodology**. The new methodology is aimed at bringing uniformity among BRs of banks so that they will be more sensitive to any changes in policy rates of the RBI like Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), etc.  
**Under the proposed methodology**, the components of Base Rate will include cost of funds, negative carry on CRR/SLR, un-allocable overhead costs and average return on net worth.

#### **Base Rate**

- It is defined as the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it is not viable to lend.
- It was introduced on 1 July 2011 by the RBI.
- It replaced the benchmark prime lending rate (BPLR), the interest rate which commercial banks charged their most credit worthy customer.

### 3. SBI & ICICI Systemically Important Banks – RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) designated State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank Ltd, the country's two largest lenders, as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). The banks have been named Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), with SBI falling in bucket three while ICICI Bank is in bucket one.

**Systemically Important Bank** – Systemically important bank or a bank that is 'too big to fail' is one whose failure will have nationwide or worldwide impacts. A bank failure is a scenario in which the bank or financial institution is unable to pay its depositors or fulfill its financial obligations.

### 4. RBI formed Financial Inclusion Fund with 2000 crore rupees corpus: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) formed a single Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) with a corpus of **2000 crore rupees**. The fund was formed by merging the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF). This fund will support the developmental and promotional activities covered under the financial inclusion initiatives.

**Note:**

**Key Facts –**

- ✓ FIF has been established as a single entity (fund) by merging Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF).
- ✓ It will provide support for funding the setting up and operational cost for running financial inclusion and Literacy Centres.
- ✓ One of its major objectives will be enhanced investment in Green Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solution.
- ✓ It will be administered by the reconstituted Advisory Board constituted by Union Government and will be maintained by NABARD.

**Note:** The Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF) were constituted in the year 2007-08 for a period of five years with a corpus of 500 crore rupees each to be contributed by Government of India (GOI), RBI and NABARD in the ratio of 40:40:20.

**Eligible Institutions that can seek support from Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF)**

- Financial Institutions viz, Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Banks and NABARD.
- Eligible institutions with whom banks can work for seeking support from the FIF:-
- ✓ Non Government Organisations
- ✓ Self-Help Groups
- ✓ Farmer's Clubs
- ✓ Functional Cooperatives
- ✓ IT enabled rural outlets of corporate entities.
- ✓ Well-functioning Panchayats
- ✓ Rural Multipurpose kiosks / Village Knowledge Centres
- ✓ Common Services Centres (CSCs) established by Service Centre Agencies (SCAs) under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).
- ✓ Primary Agricultural Societies (PACs)

### 5. RBI to Issue Rs. 500, Rs. 1000 Bank Notes with Enhanced Features - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will issue Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 bank notes with additional features to aid the visually impaired in identification. To help visually impaired person in easy identification of bank notes, RBI decided to add two more features in Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000 bank notes.

**Major Points –**

- ✓ **The new Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 denomination bank notes** will have numerals in both the numbering panels in ascending size from left to right, while the first three alpha-numeric characters will remain constant in size.
- ✓ **Further, Rs. 500 denomination bank notes** will have five angular bleed lines in three sets of 2-1-2 lines on the obverse in both, the upper left and the right hand edge of the bank note.
- ✓ **While, Rs. 1,000 bank notes** will have six angular bleed lines in four sets of 1-2-2-1 lines on the obverse in both, the upper left and right hand edge of the bank notes.
- ✓ Further, both kind of bank notes will have enlarged identification mark with a circular shape for Rs. 500 and a diamond shape for Rs. 1,000 near the left edge of the currency.

6. **RBI to issue Rs 5 coin on golden jubilee of 1965 Indo-Pak war** - The Reserve Bank of India will shortly put into circulation Rs 5 coins to commemorate golden jubilee of Indo-Pak War 1965. "The coins will be legal tender as provided in The Coinage Act 2011.

**Note:**

- ✓ The new coin in the obverse will bear Lion Capital of Ashoka Pillar in the centre with Satyamev Jayate inscribed below it.
- ✓ On the reverse it will bear image of 'Amar Jawan' monument along with the design of olive leaves branch on its left and right sides at the center, with the inscription "veerata aur balidan" in Devnagri script on the left upper periphery and "VALOUR AND SACRIFICE" in English on the right upper periphery.

7. **RBI granted 'in-principle' approval to the 10 applicants to set up Small Finance Banks.** The central bank had received 72 applications for setting up small finance bank licences.

**Names of selected applicants**

- ✓ Au Financiers (India) Ltd., Jaipur
- ✓ Capital Local Area Bank Ltd., Jalandhar
- ✓ Disha Microfin Private Ltd., Ahmedabad
- ✓ Equitas Holdings P Limited, Chennai
- ✓ ESAF Microfinance and Investments Private Ltd., Chennai
- ✓ Janalakshmi Financial Services Private Limited, Bengaluru
- ✓ RGVN (North East) Microfinance Limited, Guwahati
- ✓ Suryoday Micro Finance Private Ltd., Navi Mumbai
- ✓ Ujjivan Financial Services Private Ltd., Bengaluru
- ✓ Utkarsh Micro Finance Private Ltd., Varanasi

The "in-principle" approval granted will be valid **for 18 months** to enable the applicants to comply with the requirements under the Guidelines and fulfil other conditions as may be stipulated by the RBI.

**Small Banks** - The purpose of the small banks will be to provide a whole suite of basic banking products such as deposits and supply of credit, but in a limited area of operation. The aim of small banks is to increase financial inclusion in the country. The small bank shall be registered as a public limited company **under the Companies Act, 2013**.

**Committee on Small Banks** - The applications will be analyzed and evaluated by an External Advisory Committee (EAC). The EAC for small banks will be chaired by **Usha Thorat**, former deputy governor, RBI

**Eligibility** - Resident individuals with 10 years of experience in banking and finance, companies and Societies will be eligible as promoters to set up small banks.

**Key points**

- ✓ **Capital requirement** - The minimum paid-up capital requirement for small banks is **Rs. 100 crore**.
- ✓ As per the guidelines, the promoters' initial minimum contribution will be at least 40 % of the minimum capital, to be locked in for a period of 5 years.
- ✓ Small banks will offer both deposits as well as loan products.
- ✓ They cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities.
- ✓ The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to single/group borrowers/issuers would be restricted to **15 per cent of total capital funds**.
- ✓ Loans and advances of up to Rs 25 lakhs, primarily to micro enterprises, should constitute at least 50 per cent of the loan portfolio.
- ✓ For the first three years, 25 per cent of branches should be in unbanked rural areas.
- ✓ The foreign shareholding in the bank would be as per the extant FDI policy.
- ✓ For the initial three years, prior approval will be required for branch expansion.

8. **RBI granted 'in-principle' approval to 11 Payment Banks applicants**- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 19 August 2015 granted in-principle approval to 11 payment banks applicants under the Guidelines for Licensing of Payments Banks.

**11 Payment Banks applicants** which includes –

- ✓ 2 Telecom companies **Vodafone and Airtel**;
  - ✓ 1 Non-banking financial company - **Cholamandalam Distribution Services Ltd**;
  - ✓ 2 Large conglomerates Reliance Industries and Aditya Birla Nuvo;
  - ✓ 2 Individuals - Vijay Shekhar Sharma, **founder of Paytm**, and Dilip Shanghvi, Managing Director of **Sun Pharmaceuticals**.
  - ✓ The Department of Posts, Fino Paytech, Tech Mahindra and National Securities Depository Ltd also made the cut.
- Note:** The Reserve Bank received **41 applications** for payments banks. Of the 41 entities that applied for a licence, the prominent names that did not make it in this round include Future Group Founder Kishore Biyani, Videocon d2h and MG George Muthoot.

**Payment Banks** - The main objective of payment banks is to increase financial inclusion in the country via a primary focus on domestic payments services by providing small savings accounts. Payments banks will be used only for transaction and deposits purposes. Unlike small banks, payments banks cannot lend money.

**Committee on Payment Banks** - These applications are analyzed and evaluated by an External Advisory Committee (EAC). The EAC Committee for Payment Banks is chaired by **Dr. Nachiket Mor**, Director, Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India.

#### Key Points:

- ✓ **Capital requirement** - The minimum paid-up capital requirement for payments banks is **Rs. 100 crore**.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank grants a license for commencement of banking **business under Section 22(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- ✓ RBI's "in-principle" nod will be valid for a **period of 18 months**, during which time the applicants have to comply with the requirements under the Guidelines and fulfill the other conditions as may be stipulated by the Reserve bank.
- ✓ As per the guidelines, the promoters' initial minimum contribution will be at **least 40 % of the minimum capital**, to be locked in for a **period of 5 years**.
- ✓ The payments bank will need to invest **75 percent** of its funds in government securities.
- ✓ Payments banks can open small savings accounts and accept deposits of **up to Rs.1 lakh** per individual customer and provide remittance services. Hence, the balance at the close of business on any day should not exceed Rs.1 lakh per customer.
- ✓ Payments banks can issue debit cards but they are not eligible to **provide credit card facilities**.
- ✓ Payments Banks are allowed to **set up their own ATMs** (automated teller machines).
- ✓ Payments banks will have to invest in government securities with a **maturity of up to 1 year**.

#### List of 11 Payment Banks applicants -

1. Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited
2. Airtel M Commerce Services Limited
3. Cholamandalam Distribution Services Limited
4. Department of Posts
5. Fino PayTech Limited
6. National Securities Depository Limited – Director G. V. Nageswara Rao
7. Reliance Industries Limited - Joint ventured with SBI
8. Sun Pharma - Dilip Shanghvi, Managing Director of Sun Pharmaceuticals.
9. Paytm – Founder of Vijay Shekhar Sharma
10. Tech Mahindra Limited
11. Vodafone m-pesa Limited

9. **R Gandhi Panel on UCBs** - The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) high Powered Committee on Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) headed by RBI Deputy Governor R Gandhi in its report has recommended conversion of UCBs with business size of 20000 crore rupees or more into regular banks.

#### Key points:

- ✓ For conversion, smaller UCBs with business size of less than 20,000 crore rupees who are willing to convert to Small Finance Banks can apply to the RBI.
- ✓ With the conversion, UCBs will be allowed to grow and proliferate further to meet the objective of financial inclusion



**Entry Point Norms:** The new Entry Point Norms (EPNs) may be as under:

- ✓ 100 crore rupees capital requirement to operate as a Multi-State Urban Co-operative Bank-
- ✓ 50 crore rupees capital requirement to operate beyond two districts and as a State level UCB
- ✓ 25 crore rupees capital requirement to operate as District level UCB (upto 2 districts)

10. The Reserve Bank has permitted Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to subscribe to the chit funds in India.
11. The Reserve Bank issued the final guidelines on Prepaid Payment Instruments for Mass Transit System (PPI-MTS) enabling the issuance of a separate category of semi-closed prepaid payment instruments for mass transit systems.  
Key points –
  - ✓ The PPI-MTS can be used within the mass transit systems and will have a minimum validity of **six months** from date of issue.
  - ✓ Such PPIs will be reloadable instruments subject to an outstanding limit of ₹ 2,000/- at any point of time.
12. The Reserve Bank has permitted co-operative banks (Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/ State Co-operative Banks (StCBs)/ District Central Co-operative Banks) which are Core Banking Solution (CBS) enabled, to issue ATM cards/ ATM-cum-debit cards in tie-up with a sponsor bank.  
Note: Further, these cooperative banks by virtue of being a sub-member of **National Financial Switch (NFS)** are required to fulfil the risk management requirements prescribed by the sponsor bank and meet expenses devolving on them under the agreement with the sponsor bank.c
13. RBI decided to issue 10 rupees coins to commemorate International Day of Yoga. International Yoga Day observed on 21 June 2015.
14. Reserve Bank of India notified the Union Budget-2015-16 Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) and asked all banks to provide interest concession of 2 percent on short term crop loans of up to 3 lakh rupees.
15. RBI extends deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency till **December 31, 2015 from June 30, 2015.**
16. **RBI allows value up to Rs. 2000 in 'Tap and pay' transactions without PIN:** Reserve Bank of India allowed banks to enable transactions in contactless cards for values up to Rs 2,000 without requiring a separate PIN authentication.  
**Note: 'Tap and pay' refers to the use** of near field communication technology in payment cards where instead of the traditional swiping of the card and punching in payment details, all the customer needs to do is wave a card in front of an acceptance device for the bill to be settled.
17. RBI has increased the limit for foreign exchange (FOREX) remittances under Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) from **\$125,000** to \$250,000 (Rs. 1.5 crore) per person per year. Under the LRS, Indians can open, maintain and hold foreign currency accounts with banks outside India for carrying out transactions, without permission from the RBI.

### Agreement signed by Reserve Bank of India:

1. **RBI, UAE Central Bank ink MoU for supervisory information exchange** - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Bank of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information.
2. **RBI, Nepal Rastra Bank ink MoU for supervisory information exchange** - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) on Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information.
3. **RBI signed special currency swap agreement with Central Bank of Sri Lanka:** Under the arrangement, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka can draw up to **1.1 billion US dollar** for a maximum period of **six months**. This special arrangement is in addition to the existing Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC Member Countries.  
**Note:** Earlier, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed a currency swap agreement of \$ 400million with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. The agreement will be valid for a period of three years.
4. **RBI signed agreement with European Central Bank (ECB)** - RBI and European Central Bank (ECB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of central banking. The aim of the deal is to exchange of information, policy dialogue and technical cooperation between the two institutions.

## IDFC Bank

**IDFC Bank on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015** started its operation with 23 branches, thus becomes the 91st scheduled commercial bank in the country.

### Key points –

- ✓ **Chairman** - Former Union home secretary **Anil Bajjal** is the chairman of **IDFC bank**.
- ✓ **Vinod Rai**, former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), is the non-executive chairman of IDFC.
- ✓ **Head office** – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ **Founder and Managing Director of IDFC Bank** – Rajiv Lall
- ✓ IDFC Bank started operations with 23 branches in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata. 15 branches are in settlements with a population of less than 10,000.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally launched IDFC Bank on 19th October, 2015

## SBI Bank in News –

1. SBI Card launches **SimplyCLICK** credit card for online shopping - in association with seven partners including Amazon India, BookMyShow and Cleartrip.
2. State Bank of India (SBI) launched a Mobile wallet application dubbed as '**SBI Buddy**'.  
**Note:** It aims at providing convenient and secure digital payment system to its customers. It was launched in collaboration with Accenture and Mastercard.
3. SBI's launched **Project Tatkal** an initiative to provide doorstep services and expedite **home loans** application process within 10 days.
4. **SBI's mCASH for money transfer:** State Bank of India launched a new initiative "mCASH" for money transfer to anyone without knowing their Bank account details irrespective of whether the recipient bank is SBI or not. Any SBI customer having Internet banking facility can now transfer funds, without registration of beneficiary by entering beneficiary mobile number or email-ID, with the help of "mCASH" app and for this the customer have to visit [www.onlinesbi.com](http://www.onlinesbi.com).
5. **"sbiINTOUCH" contactless card payment:** The bank has launched the **sbiINTOUCH** Contactless Debit Card and SBI Signature Contactless Credit Card for quick, secure and hassle-free payments at merchant outlets. Customers can make payments up to Rs. 2,000 per tap and pay transactions at select point-of-sale (POS) machines.
6. **SBI join hands with PayPal to enable cross-border transactions:** State Bank of India (SBI), had partnership with digital payments company, PayPal, to facilitate cross-border trade and payments. This will be SBI's first such tie-up for remittances and payments.
7. SBI & Reliance partnered for Payment Bank Licence. RIL will be the promoter and SBI will be the joint venture partner with equity investment of up to 30%.

## HDFC Bank in News -

1. HDFC Bank launched '**Dhanchayat**', an educational film to raise awareness on the dangers of borrowing money from unorganised sources.
2. HDFC Bank ties up with Snapdeal for co-branded credit card.
3. HDFC Bank, launched a **10-second paperless instant loan Scheme** for its existing customers. The 10-second loan Scheme was launched as part of HDFC Bank's digital banking platform GoDigital. With this, HDFC bank became first banking institution to completely automate the entire process of loan approval and disbursement.
4. **HDFC ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in world's top 10 lists of consumer finance firms:** HDFC has emerged the only Indian company among the world's 10 biggest consumer financial services firms and ranked 7<sup>th</sup>, after giants like American Express, Visa and Mastercard. American Express is placed on the top followed by Capital One Financial, Visa, Discover Financial Services and Orix in the top-five. Mastercard is ranked sixth.
5. **HDFC & Apollo Hospitals join hands for pre-paid medical card:** HDFC Bank had partnership with Apollo Hospitals to launch a co-branded medical benefits card, which allows corporates to disburse medical

allowances to their employees and has insurance cover for accidents. The bank claimed that this is the first-of-its kind product in the country.

6. HDFC Bank became the first Indian bank to launch Mobile Banking App for Apple iWatch.
7. **Chillr mobile app:** HDFC Bank partnered with MobME, a Kochi-based technology firm to launch a

mobile app "Chillr". It is a first-of-its kind application that is linked directly to the customer's bank account. Customer can make 10 transactions in a day with a maximum limit of ₹5,000.

### ICICI Bank in News -

1. ICICI Bank launches **mVisa-based** mobile payment service. ICICI Bank launched a mobile-payment solution based on 'mVisa' that will allow its customers pay for services using their smartphones.  
**Note:** The service is based on 'mVisa', a new mobile payment solution from Visa, and ICICI Bank is the first globally to launch a mobile-app based 'mVisa' solution for consumers and merchants,
2. ICICI Bank has launched '**Smart Vault**' first of its kind fully automated digital locker facility in India.
3. ICICI Bank has launched '**ICICI Bank Saral-Rural Housing Loan**' Scheme for weaker sections of society. Housing loan will be provided at the ICICI Bank Base Rate (known as I-Base) which is currently at 9.70%.
4. **ICICI Bank ties up with Alibaba to provide easy finance:** ICICI Bank has tied up with Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba to provide easier trade finance to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the country.
5. **ICICI Bank launched its first branch in China:** India's largest private sector bank, ICICI bank has launched its first branch in Shanghai, China, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

6. **ICICI became first bank to launch Voice Password for Phone Banking:** ICICI Bank became the first bank in the country to launch voice recognition service which authenticates customers based on their speech patterns and allows them to execute banking transactions through the bank's call centre in a quick, secure and convenient manner.
7. **ICICI Bank launched E-wallet 'Pockets' Digital Bank** - service to allow any individual to instantly make transactions on a mobile phone with or without a bank account. The service is also known as Digital Bank, which allow customers to deposit or transfer from any bank account through a debit card or Net banking account and start transacting immediately on a mobile without any documentation.
8. ICICI launched **India's first contact - less debit & credit cards.**
9. ICICI bank has tied up with a leading UAE-based bank to offer an instant remitting service to Indians residing in the Gulf nation.

### Other Banking & Financial News -

1. **IMF released World Economic Outlook October 2015 Update -**  
**Key points -**
  - ✓ **Global Growth** - The report projects global growth for 2015 at 3.1 %.
  - ✓ India's growth is expected to strengthen from **7.3 percent 2015.**
2. **Farhan Akhtar** appointed new brand **ambassador** of **IndusInd Bank.**
3. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has been chosen as '**Finance Minister of the Year, Asia**' by London-based publication Emerging Markets.
4. **Farhan Akhtar** is news brand ambassador of IndusInd Bank.
5. **EPFO raises maximum insurance cover to Rs 6 lakh** - Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)

substantially increased the maximum amount assured under its Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme (EDLI) to **Rs 6 lakh from the existing Rs 3.6 lakh.**

6. **Govt to inject Rs 20K crore** in PSU banks in a month, SBI to get Rs 5K crore - According to Finance Ministry, Government has decided to infuse Rs 20,088 crore into 13 PSU banks within a month's and country's largest lender SBI will get Rs 5,531 crore under the plan.  
**Under the allocation plan,** Bank of India will get Rs 2,455 crore, IDBI (Rs 2,229 crore), Indian Overseas Bank (Rs 2,009 crore), Bank of Baroda (Rs 1,786 crore), PNB (1,732 crore), Union Bank of India (Rs 1,080 crore), Canara Bank (Rs 947 crore) and Corporation Bank (Rs 857 crore).



Moreover, Dena Bank will get Rs 407 crore, Bank of Maharashtra (Rs 394 crore), Andhra Bank (Rs 378 crore) and Allahabad Bank (Rs 283 crore).

**Note:** The government has already laid out a roadmap for Rs 70,000 crore capital infusion in PSU banks over a period of four years by 2018-19. Of this Rs 25,000 crore each will happen in 2015-16 and 2016-17 and Rs 10,000 crore each in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

7. Cabinet allows **100 per cent FDI** under automatic route for white label ATMs operations, a move that is aimed at promoting financial inclusion.
8. Axis Bank launched "**LIME app**", a mobile phone application offering wallet, shopping, payments and banking facilities.
9. **Gujarat tops in ease of doing business in India:** Gujarat has been placed to top position in World Bank's first ever ranking of States on the ease of doing business in India.  
**Top 5 States:** Gujarat (71.14%), Andhra Pradesh (70.12%), Jharkhand (63.09%), Chhattisgarh (62.45%) and Madhya Pradesh (62.00%).  
**Bottom 5 states:** Mizoram (6.37%), Jammu and Kashmir (5.93%), Meghalaya (4.38%), Nagaland (3.41%) and Arunachal Pradesh (1.23%).
10. Govt plans '**Suraksha Bandhan**' drive to push social security - The drive will be supported through the **Jeevan Suraksha Gift cheques**, which will be **available for purchase for Rs. 351** in bank branches by persons wishing to gift them to facilitate one year payment of premium for Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) by the recipient.
11. India has decided to join UN-based **Better Than Cash Alliance** with a view to reduce cash transactions in its economy and achieve financial inclusion. The official announcement in this regard was made on the first anniversary of Government's flagship financial inclusion programme Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY.) Partnership with this UN alliance is an extension of Indian Government's commitment to reduce cash transactions in its economy as digitization of payments to achieve financial inclusion a top priority.
12. ADB (Asian Development Bank) lowered India's Growth Forecast for 2016 from **7.8% to 7.4%**
13. Union Government has launched a seven pronged plan called **Indradhanush Mission** to revamp functioning of public sector banks (PSBs).

**14. Indradhanush Mission** - Union Government has launched a seven pronged plan called Indradhanush Mission to revamp functioning of public sector banks (PSBs). It was launched by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

**Note:** The seven shades of Indradhanush mission include **(i) appointments, (ii) Bank Board Bureau (BBB), (iii) capitalisation (iv) de-stressing PSBs, (v) empowerment, (vi) framework of accountability and (vii) governance reforms.** It seeks to achieve the objective of economic growth revival through improving credit and minimising the political interference in the functioning of PSBs.

**15.** Union Government has decided to set up a **Bank Board Bureau (BBB)** to monitor key performance indicators of two dozen public sector banks (PSBs). It was announced by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley as part of a seven-pronged revamp plan for PSBs dubbed as Indradhanush (rainbow) plan.

Key points -

**(i)** Bank Board Bureau (BBB) will start the functioning from next financial year i.e. from 1st **April 2016** and the selection of its member will start in the next six months.

**(ii)** It will replace existing system Appointments Board in which appointments for top level jobs at PSBs are made by an appointments committee led by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor.

**(iii) Composition:** The BBB will be a body of 'eminent' professionals and shall consist of only one government official. It will be six members body with at least 3 former bankers, 2 professionals and secretary, department of financial services representing government.

**(iv)** The board will give recommendations for appointment of full-time Directors as well as non-Executive Chairman of PSBs.

**16.** Axis Bank has launched the **first Contactless Debit, Credit and Multi-Currency** Forex Card in association with VISA payWave in the country.

**17.** HSBC India's chairman Naina Lal Kidwai announced to launch 'green bonds' in India for raising funds for investments in environmental projects.

**Note:** Green Bonds in India was initially launched by Axis Bank and Yes Bank in February 2015 that attracted investment of 1,000 crore rupees against the target of 500 crore rupees.

**What is Green Bond?** A bond is a debt instrument with which a bond issuer gets capital while the

investors receive fixed income in the form of interest. The issuer of green bond gets capital from the investors only if the investment is being raised to fund 'green' projects relating to renewable energy or emission reductions etc.

18. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched its maiden unit **linked insurance plan (ULIP)** product across the country.

**Note:** The ULIP which is also called as '**New Endowment Plus**' offers investment-cum-insurance provision during the term policy providing dual benefit for the policy holder.

19. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley launched two funds the **India Aspiration Fund (IAF)** and **SIDBI Make in India Loan for Enterprises (SMILE)** under Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in line to cater funding for start-ups and to aid small enterprises in India.

**Note: (i)** SIDBI under the first fund India Aspiration Fund (IAF) would invest in venture capital funds for meeting the equity requirement of MSME start-ups and for this the initial corpus of **Rs. 2,000 crore** has been set. Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) will be a partner and co-investor in this fund.

**(ii)** Under second fund the SIDBI Make in India Loan for Enterprises (SMILE) is a debt-fund which will cater soft term loans to MSMEs to meet debt-to-equity norms and pursue growth opportunities, SIDBI has set Initial corpus of **Rs. 10,000 crore** under SMILE fund.

20. **Meghalaya achieves 100% financial inclusion under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna.** In the state, all eleven districts have been able to open at least one bank account of every household under the ambitious scheme. More than 5.53 lakh households have been covered with 1.55 lakh new bank accounts.

21. NABARD to provide Rs. 30,000 crore credit to farmers for irrigation: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has set a target of providing 30,000 crore rupees as credit to farmers for irrigational purpose.

22. Infosys signed a multi-million euro deal with Deutsche Bank. As per this agreement, Infosys will provide services like application maintenance, package implementation and testing services across the Deutsche Bank Group.

23. New Bank Note Paper Line unit inaugurated by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in **Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh.**

24. World Bank has approved an additional loan of 650 million dollars for India's Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Project. DFC Project aims at the faster delivery of goods between the northern and eastern parts of the country.

25. **Axis Bank launched Ping Pay service for instant money transfer:** With the help of this service, Axis bank customer can transfer or ask for cash, through various social media channels like Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, Email list and phone contact list. The transaction limit is at Rs50,000 per day.

26. **ADB lend \$31-million loan to Karnataka river basins:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$31 million loan to boost water availability in selected river basins in Karnataka.

27. **World Bank approves 250 million dollar credit for Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness in Bihar:** The World Bank has offered a credit of 250 million dollars to the Government of Bihar to improve its school education programme.

28. Bharatiya Mahila Bank Ltd. (BMB) has been conferred the **Asian Banker Achievement Award 2015.** It was awarded for Technology Implementation in the category of Best Outsourcing Project (New Bank)

29. **MUDRA Bank** to encourage entrepreneurship among SC/STs and OBCs. The Mudra Bank will refinance institutions through a Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

**Capital Requirement:** The MUDRA Bank will set up with the capital of Rs. 20,000 crores and would be responsible of regulating and refinancing all Micro - finance Institutions (MFI). A sum of Rs. 3,000 crores would also be provided to Mudra Bank, to create Credit Guarantee corpus for guaranteeing loans being provided to the micro enterprises.

### India's GDP growth rate projected by different organisations for the current fiscal

1. RBI – 7.4%  
(The Reserve Bank on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015, revised downwards its real GDP forecast for 2015-16 to 7.4 per cent from earlier expectation of **7.6 per cent**)
2. CRISIL (Indian credit rating agency) – 7.9%
3. Morgan Stanley (Multinational financial services corporation) – 7.5%
4. World Bank – 7.5%
5. Moody's (International credit rating agency) – 7.5%
6. IMF – 7.3% (lowered from the previous 7.5 per cent to 7.3 per cent)
7. ADB – 7.8%
8. Fitch – 7.5% (lowered India's GDP growth estimate for the current fiscal to 7.5 per cent from 7.8 per cent)
9. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – 7.5%
10. Nomura (Japanese financial services firm) – 7.6%

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### New Appointments/ National

- ✓ **New Press Trust of India (PTI) Chairman** - Hormusji N Cama. He replaced Mohan Gupta.
- ✓ **New Mumbai Police Commissioner** – Ahmed Javed. He replaces Rakesh Maria.  
**Note:** Rakesh Maria has been promoted as DG of Home Guard.
- ✓ **New President of Indian Newspaper Society** - PV Chandran
- ✓ **New Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission** – Shekhar Basu. He replaces R K Sinha.
- ✓ Tapan Ray appointed to Board of Securities and Exchange Board of India. He succeeded Anjuly Chib Duggal.
- ✓ **New CMD of India Trade Promotion Organisation** – LC Goyal.
- ✓ New interim CMD of NTPC Limited – Ak Jha.
- ✓ **New Chairman of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** - Raghav Chandra. He replaces Vijay Chhibber.
- ✓ **New CFO of Infosys** - Ranganath D Mavinakere. He replaces Rajiv Bansal.
- ✓ **New Delhi Law Minister** - Manish Sisodia replaces Kapil Mishra.
- ✓ **New CEO & MD of Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corp** - Alkesh Sharma
- ✓ Election Commissioner of India – O.P. Rawat
- ✓ Chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) – Ram Sevak Sharma. He replaced Rahul Khullar.
- ✓ Chairman of Indian India's Oscar jury Film Federation of India (FFI) – Amol Palekar. He succeeds Hriharan and Goutam Ghose.
- ✓ Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board – Ajit Kumar Seth.
- ✓ Director General (DG) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) – Ajay Mathur. He replaced PK Pachauri.  
**Note:** FSSAI is a food safety regulator in India.
- ✓ Chairman of Narmada Valley Development Authority – Rakesh Sahni.
- ✓ Chief Vigilance Commissioner - KV Chowdary
- ✓ CMD & CEO of National Housing Bank - Sriram Kalyanaraman
- ✓ Chancellor of the Nalanda University - George Yeo (Former Singapore Foreign Minister). He replaced Nobel laureate Amartya Sen.
- ✓ Chief Election Commissioner of India - Nasim Zaidi. He succeeded HS Brahma.
- ✓ Election Commissioner of India - Achal Kumar Jyoti.
- ✓ Chief Economic Advisor - Arvind Subramanian
- ✓ President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) – Sumit Mazumder. He succeeded Ajay Shriram.
- ✓ Chairman of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)–Pahlaj Nihalani. He replaced Leela Samson.
- ✓ Chairman of Sangeet NatakAkademi - Shekhar Sen.
- ✓ President of FICCI - Jyotsna Suri. He replaces Sidharth Birla.
- ✓ Chairman of National Safety Council (NSC) – K Satish Reddy.
- ✓ executive chairman of ICICI Bank -Mahendra Kumar Sharma. He replaced K.V. Kamath.

### New Appointment in PSU Banks

- ✓ MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda (BoB) - P S Jayakumar
- ✓ MD and CEO of Canara Bank - Rakesh Sharma
- ✓ MD and CEO of Bank of India (BoI) - MO Rego
- ✓ MD and CEO IDBI Bank - Kishore Kharat Piraji
- ✓ MD and CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) - Usha Ananthasubramanian

**Note:** Union government has appointed two private sector banking professionals as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Canara Bank. This is the first time that Union government has appointed the two candidates from the private sector to head the Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

### New Secretary Appointed

- ✓ **New Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance** - Ms Anjuly Chib Duggal. She replaces Dr. Hasmukh Adhia.
- ✓ **New Revenue Secretary** - Dr. Hasmukh Adhia
- ✓ **New Finance Secretary** - Ratan Watal. He replaced Rajiv Mehrishi
- ✓ **New Home Secretary** - Rajiv Mehrishi. He replaced LC Goyal.
- ✓ Oil Secretary - Kapil Dev Tripathi. He replaced Saurabh Chandra.
- ✓ Cabinet Secretary - Pradeep Kumar Sinha. He replaced Ajit Seth.
- ✓ Defence Secretary - G Mohan Kumar. He replaced RK Mathur.

### NITI Aayog

- ✓ Chairman - Narendra Modi (PM)
- ✓ First Vice - Chairman - Arvind Panagariya
- ✓ First Chief Executive officer (CEO) - Sindhushree Khullar
- ✓ Two New Advisor - Alok Kumar & Jitendra Kumar.
- ✓ **New Full time Member** - Ramesh Chand.

**Note:** He became third full-time member of NITI Aayog, Besides Mr Chand, economist Bibek Debroy and former DRDO chief V K Saraswat are other two full-time members of NITI Aayog.

### New Appointment in Defence, Space & Intelligence Agency -

- ✓ Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister - G Satheesh Reddy
- ✓ Chief of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) - Surender Singh. He replaced Arvind Ranjan.
- ✓ Director General (DG) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - Dr. Selvin Christopher
- ✓ Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) - K. Sivan. He replaced M.S. Dathan.
- ✓ Chief of ISRO- A.S. Kiran Kumar. He replaced K. Radha krishnan.
- ✓ Director of ISRO Satellite Centre - M Annadurai. He replaced S K Shiva kumar.

### New Governor Appointed

1. **Governor of Manipur** - V Shanmuganthan gets additional charge of Manipur. Present Governor of Manipur Syed Ahmed passed away.
2. **New Governor of Tripura** - West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi, who has been given additional charge of Tripura. (State's incumbent governor Tathagata Roy has gone to the United States to meet his daughter.)
3. **New Governor of Bihar** - Ram Nath Kovind. He succeed Keshri Nath Tripathi (Governor of West Bengal) who was holding additional charge of Bihar.
4. **New Governor of Himachal Pradesh** - Acharya Dev Vrat. He replaced Kalyan Singh who was given the additional charge of Himachal Pradesh Governor.
5. **Governor of Jharkhand** - Draupadi Murmu. She succeeded Syed Ahmed. She is the first woman Governor of Jharkhand and became the ninth Governor of Jharkhand.
6. **Governor of Arunachal Pradesh** - J P Rakkhowa
7. **Governor of Meghalaya** - V Shanmuganthan
8. **Governor of Mizoram** - Nirbhay Sharma

**High – Court -**

- ✓ **New Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court** – Justice Jayant Patel. He replaced Justice VM Sahai.
- ✓ **Acting Chief Justice of Patna High Court** – Iqbal Ahmed. He replaced Lingala Narasimha Reddy.
- ✓ **Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court** - Justice Sunil Kumar Sinha.
- ✓ First woman judge of Sikkim HC - Meenakshi Madan Rai became the first lady judge of the Sikkim High Court.

**Ambassador (Envoy)**

- ✓ **New India ambassador to Pakistan** - Gautam Bambawale. He replaced TCA Raghavan.
- ✓ **New India ambassador to United Kingdom** - Navtej Sarna. He succeeded Ranjan Mathai.
- ✓ **New India ambassador to China** - Vijay Gokhale. He replaces Ashok Kantha.
- ✓ **New India ambassador to Italy** - Anil Wadhwa.
- ✓ **New India ambassador to Russia** - Pankaj Saran. He replaces PS Raghavan
- ✓ **New India ambassador to Bangladesh** - Harsh V Shringla
- ✓ **New India ambassador to Japan** - Sujan Chinoy. He replaces Deepa Wadhwa.
- ✓ U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives – (Indian-American)- Atul Keshap

**Appointments/ International****Prime Minister**

- ✓ **New PM of Canada - Justin Trudeau** (second youngest prime minister to serve Canada)
- ✓ **New PM of Nepal** – KP Sharma. He replaced Sushil Koirala.
- ✓ **New PM of Greece** - Alexis Tsipras
- ✓ **New PM of Egypt** - Sherif Ismail. He succeeds Ibrahim Mehleb.
- ✓ **New Pm of Australia** - Malcolm Turnbull. He replaces Tony Abott. He belongs to the Liberal Party.
- ✓ PM of Sri Lanka – Ranil Wickeramasinghe.

**Note:** On 18 August 2015, Wickremesinghe's **United National Party (UNP)** won 106 seats, seven short of a majority in the 225-member parliament.

- ✓ PM of Peru - Pedro Cateriano. He replaced Ana Jara.
- ✓ PM of Britain - David Cameron. He became the PM for second term.
- ✓ PM of Israel – Benjamin Netanyahu. He became the PM for a fourth term.

**President**

- ✓ President of Belarus - **Alexander Lukashenko** won Presidential election of Belarus for the 5th time.
- ✓ New President of Fiji - Jioji Konrote.
- ✓ President of Mauritius - Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. She is the first woman to hold the position of President of Mauritius.
- ✓ President of Nigeria - Muhammadu Buhari. He became the 5th President of the country by defeating the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan.

- ✓ President of Guyana: David Granger. He becomes eighth President of Guyana.
- ✓ President of Kazakhstan – Nursultan Nazarbayev re-elected Kazakhstan President for fifth time.
- ✓ President of Sudan - Omar al-Bashir re-elected as President of Sudan.

- ✓ **New Appointment in Financial Institution** – New Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – Maurice Obstfeld. He replaced Olivier Blanchard.

- ✓ First President of New Development Bank of BRICS nations - KV Kamath.



### Others Appointment

- ✓ **New Goodwill Ambassador** for the UN children's agency, UNICEF - Novak Djokovic.
- ✓ New CEO of Google - Sundar Pichai.
- ✓ New India's permanent representative in the UN - Syed Akbaruddin. He replaces Asoke Mukerji.
- ✓ **New Chairman of US-India Business Council - John T Chambers** (Executive Chairman of Cisco). He replaces **Ajay Banga**, President and CEO of MasterCard.
- ✓ New CEO of Twitter - Jack Dorsey. He replaced Dick Costolo.
- ✓ **First Female House Speaker of Nepal** - Onsari Gharti Magar
- ✓ **Cultural Ambassador of Seychelles** - AR Rahman
- ✓ New Chairman of Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) - Hoesung Lee (South Korea). He replaces R.K. Pachauri.
- ✓ New FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific - **Kundhavi Kadiresan (An Indian national)**. She replaced Hiroyuki Konuma.
- ✓ Metro Man E. **Sreedharan** has been invited to the United Nations' High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG-ST).
- ✓

### Appointment in Sports:

- ✓ **New BCCI President** – Shashank Manohar.
  - ✓ New President of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) - Sourav Ganguly
  - ✓ New Head of the All India Council of Sports - VK Malhotra
  - ✓ New President of International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) – Sebastian Coe. He replaced Lamine Diack.
- Note:** He was appointed as an independent member on the 14-member board of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).
- ii. With this, he became the first British Asian to join the ECB Management Board which is chaired by Colin Graves and the President of the Board is Giles Clarke CBE.
  - ✓ New ICC President – Zaheer Abbas. He replaced Mustafa Kamal.
  - ✓ Fifa president - Sepp Blatter re-elected as Fifa president for fifth term.

## International Meets & Summits

### Summits held/to be held in India

1. **14<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2016** – New Delhi, India.  
**Note:** **13<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2015** – Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
2. **10<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Conference held in** – Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.  
Theme of the Conference is **"Hindi Jagat: Vistar avm sambhavnai"**.
3. **SAARC countries' conference** on Disaster Mitigation held in **New Delhi, India**.
4. International Textile and Apparel fair 'VASTRA' held in – Jaipur, Rajasthan.
5. 17th All-India Govt Whips Conference held in - Visakhapatnam
6. Second Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) Summit held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
7. IBSA Summit 2015 - New Delhi, India. (IBSA = India - Brazil - South Africa)
8. 6<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Energy conference held in New Delhi, India.
9. The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of SAARC health ministers held in New Delhi, India.  
**SAARC comprises 8 nations** - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
10. First World Ocean Science Congress held in Kochi, Kerala. The focal themes of the WOSC 2015 - **Protect Oceans for Posterity and Blue Economy**.
11. Indo-Global Pharma Expo 2015 - to be held in Hyderabad on 24 July 2015. The theme of the Summit will be **"Innovation and Advances."**
12. World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) to be held in Hyderabad, India in 2018. Theme of the 2018 WCIT will be **Future of enterprises**.
13. **1st Counter-Terrorism Conference 2015** was held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
14. **102nd Indian Science Congress (ISC)** held in Mumbai.  
**Note:** **103rd Indian Science Congress** to be hosted by University of **Mysore**, Karnataka, from 3-7 January 2016

## International

1. **15<sup>th</sup> G-20 Summit 2015– Turkey**
- ✓ **G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting held in** – Ankara, Turkey.
- ✓ G 20 Leaders Summit 2015 – Antalya, Turkey
- ✓ G 20 Labour Summit 2015 – Antalya, Turkey
- ✓ **Women G20 Summit 2015** – Istanbul, Turkey
  - The focus of the W20 is to enhance the role of women in business.
  - **Gulden Turkkan** was appointed as the first president of the group.
  - She is one of the founders and President of the Women Entrepreneurs' Association in Turkey (KAGIDER), and is currently a member of its Executive Board.
- ✓ **Note:** India is going to chair Group of Twenty (G20) nations forum **in year 2018 and New Delhi** could be the host of the prestigious **annual G20 summit**.
- ✓ Turkey will hand over the **Chair for the next year i.e. 2016** to China and in **2017 Germany is going to chair it**.  
**Note: (2)**
  - (i) The Union Government decided to appoint **Arvind Panagariya**, Vice President of NITI Aayog, as the **Sherpa for the 2015 G-20 Summit**. The Summit will take place in Antalya, Turkey in November 2015.
  - (ii) **Sherpa is a senior official** responsible for preparing the agenda for leaders to consider during the summit.
  - (iii) **Panagariya** will be replacing Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu who was appointed Sherpa for the G-20 Summit in 2014.
2. The **9<sup>th</sup> Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (RPBD)** will be held at **Los Angeles, California, USA** from 14 November to 15 November 2015.
3. The **India-US Ministerial Energy Dialogue** held on at the US Department of Energy, **Washington**.
4. **BRICS University** President Forum meet held in **Beijing, China**.
5. 2015 Annual meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund – **Lima, Peru**
6. **Leaders' Summit** on Peacekeeping held at the UN headquarters in New York.
7. First India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue held in Washington, USA.
8. **48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN** (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Foreign Ministers' meet was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The meet was chaired by **Anifah Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia**.  
**Note:** The meet was held under the theme "**Our People, Our Community, Our Vision**", to create an ASEAN Community which is truly people-oriented, people-centred comprising all areas of cooperation.
9. 2015 US - India Cyber Dialogue held in Washington, DC.

**Note:** The dialogue was held with an aim to increase global cyber security and promote the digital economy.

10. **7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit** – Ufa, Russia.  
 Theme of the summit - **BRICS Partnership – a Powerful Factor of Global Development**.  
**Note:** BRICS nations include - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
  - 8th BRICS summit will be held in New Delhi, India in 2016.
  - 6th BRICS summit was held at Fortaleza in Brazil in 2014.
  - **The summit was attended by**  
 PM of India - Narendra Modi  
 President of Brazil - Dilma Rousseff  
 President of Russia - Vladimir Putin  
 President of China - Xi Jinping  
 President of South Africa - Jacob Zuma
11. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit 2015 held in – **Ufa, Russia**  
**Note:**
  - India and Pakistan to become full member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) by 2016.
  - Shanghai Cooperation Organisation – Head office – Beijing, China
  - Member's countries - China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
12. **41<sup>st</sup> G7 Summit** - Elmau, Germany. Theme of the summit - Think Ahead. Act Together.  
**Note:**
  - G 7 nations include - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, U.K., US, and the European Commission (EC). EC is a permanently welcome participant in all meetings and decision-making since 1981.
- Future Summits to be held in –**
  - The 42nd G7 Summit 2016 – Japan
  - The 43rd G7 Summit 2017 – Italy
  - The 44th G7 Summit 2018 – Canada
13. **The 68<sup>th</sup> World Health** Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland.  
**Note:** India assumed Presidency of the 68th World Health Assembly (WHA) after 19 years. The session was presided by the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda at Geneva.
14. World Economic Forum annual Summit 2015 - Davos, Switzerland.
15. 19<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit 2016 - Islamabad, Pakistan.  
**Note:** 18<sup>th</sup> SAARC Summit held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2014..
16. 4<sup>th</sup> Nuclear security summit 2016 – United States.
17. 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 held in Sendai, Japan.

### India ranking in various sectors –

- ✓ India ranks at **12<sup>th</sup> spot** in power generation from nuclear source in 2015.  
**Note:** With the total power generation from nuclear reactors at 5308 MWe, India is ranked 12th in the world in terms of power generation from nuclear sources.  
(ii) **US is at 1<sup>st</sup> rank** followed by France, Japan, Russia and China.
- ✓ **India topped in the regional** inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in South Asia region during year 2014, accounting for 34 billion US dollars investments.  
**Top five FDI recipients** in South Asia: India, Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.
- ✓ **India among top five economies:** World Bank report says India has figured in top five emerging economies for highest investment commitments in private sector, infrastructure sectors, energy, transport and water. The top five countries with the biggest investment commitments in 2014 are Brazil, Turkey, Peru, Colombia and India.
- ✓ **India jumps to 6<sup>th</sup>** from 10<sup>th</sup> position, in terms of in terms of publishing scientific research papers in different journals.
- ✓ **India ranked 6<sup>th</sup> place** in the top rankings of space-faring nations, a report by a Chinese research institution Beijing Institute of Space Science and Technology.  
**Note:** The list is top by United States. Europe and Russia are ranked as the next two great powers. China's space capabilities are ranked the fourth in the world.
- ✓ India ranked at **125<sup>th</sup>** in the world for fixed broadband penetration.
- ✓ India is the **5<sup>th</sup>** biggest producer of e-waste in the world. India came in fifth, behind the US, China, Japan and Germany.
- ✓ Indians ranked on **16<sup>th</sup>** place in the new HSBC list of Swiss bank account holders.  
**Note:** Switzerland people remain on the top rank in the list, followed by UK, Venezuela, US and France in the top five.
- ✓ **India is the world's biggest arms importers.**  
**Note:** According to the new study of Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI); India, Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates and Pakistan have become the largest importers of weapons in 2010-2014.

### India's rank in different indexes

1. Global Competitiveness Index 2015 – **55**  
**Note:** Switzerland, Singapore and the US are at the top of the Global Competitiveness Index, which profiles 140 economies.
2. Environmental Democracy Index 2015 – **24**  
**Note:** The index is topped by Lithuania at the first position, Latvia at the second and Russia at the third position.
3. World Press freedom Index 2015 – **136**  
**Note:** Finland on the first position followed by Norway and Denmark.
4. FM Global Resilience Index 2015 – **119** (Norway topped the index.)
5. World Hunger List 2015 - India tops in World Hunger List.
6. World Human Development Index – **135** (Norway tops the list)
7. World Happiness index 2015 – **117**  
**Note:** **Switzerland** topped the index and followed by Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Canada. Syria ranked last (158), making it the least happy country in the world.

## Important Committees

1. **Mihir Shah committee** - to restructure the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to encourage optimal development of water resources in the country.
2. **B S Baswan committee** - to revisit civil services examination pattern
3. **T Haque committee** - NITI Aayog constituted T Haque Expert Group on Land Leasing
4. **R Gandhi committee** - recommended conversion of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) with business size of 20,000 crore rupees or more into regular banks.
5. **Deepak Mohanty committee** - to frame action plan on financial inclusion.
6. **Nachiket Mor committee** - on Payment Banks
7. **Usha Thorat committee** - on Small Banks
8. **A P Shah committee** - A high level committee on the controversial issue of payment of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) by foreign institutional investors.
9. **Bhupendra Yadav committee** - to head panel on the Goods and Services Tax, GST bill
10. **SS Ahluwalia committee** - on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement (LARR) (Amendment) Bill, 2015.
11. **Vijay Kelkar committee**: on Revisiting and Revitalizing the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model of Infrastructure Development.
12. **B N Navalawala committee**: to head task force on inter-linking of rivers.
13. **Ajay Shankar committee**: to suggest simplified compliance for establishing new industries.
14. **AK Bhargava committee**: to look into the issues of "Net neutrality".

## National News

1. Supreme Court has declared **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, 2014** and 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014 unconstitutional and void.
2. **Google** to give **Wi-Fi access** in **500 railway** stations in India.
3. **Konkan Railway** to set up a tunnel technology institute at **Margao** in Goa.
4. Rameswaram, birthplace of **Dr. Abdul Kalam**, included as **498th** town under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (**AMRUT**) for providing basic urban infrastructure.
5. **Govt of India** approved the construction of **National War Memorial and a National War Museum** at Princess Park near India Gate, Delhi.
6. Asia's biggest telescope **Multi-Application Solar Telescope (MAST)** inaugurated at the Udaipur Solar Observatory in Rajasthan.
7. Pranab Mukherjee became first Indian President to address Israeli Parliament Knesset.
8. **November 26** to be observed as **Constitution Day** - India will observe 26 November as Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas) to spread awareness of Indian Constitution and its architect Dr B R Ambedkar.
9. **Dabur India to adopt 5 villages to support 'Swachh Bharat' initiative**  
**Note:**
  - (i) FMCG major Dabur India said that it will adopt five villages in Uttar Pradesh and make them 'Open-Defecation Free' within the current fiscal.
  - (ii) The five villages to be adopted by Dabur India are **Nandpur, Nagla Gajju, Naraina, Nidhawali and Domatikri.**
10. **India commits 33-35 per cent cut in carbon emissions by 2030**  
**Note:** India has pledged to cut the intensity of its carbon emissions **by 33-35 per cent** and boost the renewable energy capacity to 40 per cent by 2030 in the target submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) on Climate Change for a global climate pact.
11. **Infrastructure output rises 2.6% in August**  
**Note:**
  - (i) Annual infrastructure output growth picked up in August to **2.6 per cent** from a year ago, mainly driven by higher cement and electricity generation. The output had grown 1.1 per cent year-on-year in July.
  - (ii) The **infrastructure sector** accounts for **nearly 38 per cent** of the **country's industrial output.**
12. **Puducherry city first to get Smart city nomination**  
 Puducherry city has emerged as the first nomination to be received by the Urban Development Ministry for a Smart City Mission.



**13. Central Victim Compensation Fund set up with 200 crore rupees by Union Government** - The Union Ministry of Home Affairs introduced a scheme called Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) with an initial amount of 200 crore rupees.

**14. Union Cabinet approved constitution of 21st Law Commission of India.**

**Key points -**

- ✓ The term of the 20th law commission ended on 31 August 2015.
- ✓ **Justice Ajit Prakash Shah** is the Chairman of 20th law commission.
- ✓ The 21st law commission will be functional for a period of three years between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2018.

**15. Union Government cancelled the registration of Greenpeace India under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010.** This move of the government will make the NGO ineligible to receive funds from abroad, which means it may force it to close down its operations in India.

**16. Union Cabinet gives nod to 3 new AIIMS -**

3 AIIMS will be established at **Nagpur** (Maharashtra), **Manglagiri** (Andhra Pradesh) and **Kalyani** in West Bengal.

**17. Union Government to spend Rs. 70,000 crore for major port's development under Sagarmala project.**

**18. Union Government has notified Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Rules, 2015 under the Food Security Act, 2013.**

**19. Critically acclaimed Marathi film 'Court'** has been selected as India's official entry to the Best Foreign Language category of the **88th Academy Awards 2016 (popularly known as Oscars).**

**20. IIT- Delhi, IISc figured in the top 200 World University Rankings -**

In this edition of annual global university ranking list, IISc Bangalore ranked **147th** and IIT- Delhi ranked **179th** respectively.

**21. Union Government extends e-Tourist Visa Scheme to 37 more countries.**

**22. Union Cabinet cleared National Offshore Wind Energy Policy** to generate electricity from offshore windmills located in areas within Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country. Under this policy, Offshore wind power projects and R&D activities will be carried in waters up to the seaward distance of 200 Nautical Miles (EEZ of the country) from the base line.

**23. The West-Central Railway (WCR) zone headquartered in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh** has become **the first**

**Railway Zone** in Indian Railways to eliminate all **unmanned level crossings.**

**24. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** has launched the second version of an open source web based tool **India Energy Security Scenarios 2047 calculator (IESS 2047).**

**25. Retail major Future Group tied-up with Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved** - Retail major Future Group tied-up with Baba Ramdev-promoted Patanjali Ayurved to sell the Patanjali's FMCG products on its stores with plans for joint manufacturing in future.

**Note:** With this partnership, Patanjali's FMCG products including staples, nutrition, hair care, skin care, dental care and toiletries will now onwards be also sold on Future Group's Big Bazaar, KB's and EasyDay outlets across India.

**26. Union Government has declared the names of 98 cities for its ambitious Smart Cities Project.**

**27. Kochi becomes first Indian city** to be a member of Beijing headquartered, **World Tourism Cities Federation (WTCF)** Council and join its league of leading tourism cities across the world.

**28. CCEA approved World Bank assisted National Watershed Management project Neeranchal**

**Note:**

**(i)** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved implementation of the World Bank assisted National Watershed Management Project **Neeranchal with a total outlay 2142.30 crore rupees.**

**(ii)** The project will be implemented at the national level as well as in the nine states of Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.

**(iii)** The government's share in the project is 50 percent and the rest cost will be borne by the World Bank.

**29. India's first Dolphin Community** to come up in West Bengal - India's first Dolphin Community Reserve will be established in West Bengal to protect the endangered mammal, Gangetic river dolphins.

**30. Portugal became the first European country** to sign the MoU on establishment of **Nalanda University**

**Note:** With this, Portugal became the 17th country overall and the fourth outside the East Asia Summit to do so.

**31. Coca-cola India ropes in cricketer Sourav Ganguly** as social ambassador for a three-year deal ending in **2017**, replacing **Sachin Tendulkar**, the country's most famous cricketer, whose contract ended last year.



32. **PM Narendra Modi Announces Rs. 1.25 Lakh Crore Special Package for Bihar**
33. **Taj Mahal** had become the first historical monument in the world to have its **own Twitter account**.
34. The Taj Mahal has made it to the **top five of a prestigious new list** of the world's best tourist attractions.  
**Note:** Lonely Planet's "Ultimate Travelist" ranks the historic mausoleum built in Agra by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as the fifth most attractive travel hotspot in the world.  
**Note:** **The Temples of Angkor, a UNESCO World Heritage site** in northern Cambodia, **tops the list**, **The Great Barrier Reef** in Australia comes in at number **two**, the Inca city of Machu Picchu in Peru at number **three**, and **the Great Wall of China** at **four**.
35. **Aurangzeb Road Renamed After APJ Abdul Kalam.**
36. **Nana Patekar** has established an organisation which will provide aid to farmers overcome by drought conditions. The organisation has been named as '**Naam Foundation**'.
37. **UIDAI shifted to IT Ministry from NITI Aayog - The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**, which issues Aadhaar cards, has been shifted to the administrative control of the **Ministry of Communication and Information Technology** from Niti Aayog.
38. **Uninor rebrands as Telenor** - Telecom service provider Uninor has rebranded itself as Telenor in India. The company also has changed its tag to 'Ab life full paisa vasool' from 'Sabse Sasta'.
39. PM Modi released **digitally restored** recordings of epic '**Ramcharitmanas**'
40. Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has decided to recognize **Yoga** as a **sports discipline** and place it in the Priority category.
41. **India students in Gandhi dress create Guinness Record** - School children of Bangalore have created a Guinness Record for "the largest gathering of people dressed as Mahatma Gandhi".
42. **Union Agriculture Ministry** renamed as '**Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry**'.
43. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) meet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved **the 300-crore rupees package** to save standing kharif agriculture and horticulture crops from weak monsoon.  
**Note:** CCEA also gave its nod to a soft loan scheme to the extent of **6000 crore rupees** for the current sugar

season. Soft loans will be provided to only those Sugar mills units which have cleared at least 50 percent of their outstanding arrears by 30 June 2015.

44. **August 7 to be celebrated as National Handloom Day every year:**
45. **Gujarat makes voting compulsory in local body polls:** Gujarat became the first state to have a provision for compulsory voting with the state government putting out a notification in this regard.
46. Automobile manufacturer **Renault India Ropes in Ranbir Kapoor as Brand Ambassador:** Renault is a French multinational automobile manufacturer established in 1899.
47. Lok Sabha passed Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill, 2015 - The Bill provides for filing of cheque bounce cases at the place where a cheque is presented for clearance and not the place of issue. The Bill seeks to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.
48. Rural Development Minister launched '**SAMANVAY**' for Gram Panchayats - to help MPs in utilising relevant schemes in the planning and implementation of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).  
**Note:** Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana was launched in October 2014 under which MPs are to develop three Adarsh Gram **Panchayats by 2019**. The objective of the programme is to create Model Villages.
49. Union Government signed a landmark peace accord with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland Isak-Muivah (NSCN (I-M)), putting an end to almost two decades long pending peace talks.
50. Union Government sanctioned **1000 crore** rupees for the laying of 15.06 km long tracks to connect **Indian Railways with Bangladesh** through the North East. The Indo-Bangla Rail link would be completed by 2017 and the entire route will be constructed by IRCON.
51. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan launched the **Surakshit Khadya Abhiyan**, a countrywide campaign, to create mass awareness and capacity building for safe and hygienic food.
52. Union Government launched web portal **Vidya Lakshmi (www.vidyalakshmi.co.in)** for the benefit of students seeking Educational Loans.  
**Note:** It is the first portal of its kind that provides single window for students to access information and make application for educational loans provided by banks as well as for government scholarships.
53. Rajasthan High Court banned the **Santhara ritual prevailing in the Jain Community**.

- Note:** The ritual was banned by the court on a Public Interest Litigation filed by **human rights activist Nikhil Soni** a decade ago, claiming that the ritual is a social evil and should be considered as a suicide.
54. Govt. approved redevelopment of 400 railway stations through Swiss Challenge method. These stations are generally located in metros, major cities, pilgrimage centres and important tourist destinations across the country.
55. The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the **#100Women Initiative** in collaboration with **Facebook** to select 100 women achievers of India.
- Note:** The initiative is aimed at recognizing and acknowledging women who are making a difference in their communities across the country.
56. **MGNREGA world's largest public works programme** - World Bank has ranked the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) as the world's largest public works programme. It was revealed in recently released World Bank Group's report titled 'The State of Social Safety Nets 2015'.
57. **Bharti Airtel becomes 3rd largest mobile operator in world:** Sunil Mittal led Bharti Airtel has become the world's third largest mobile operator with 303 million subscribers.
- Note:** **China Mobile**, according to WCIS, is the **top** mobile operator in the world with 626.27 million subscribers. **Vodafone** Group of UK **ranks second** with 403.08 million subscribers.
58. **World Bank approves \$650 mn loan for Eastern Freight Corridor:** The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor is to be 1,840 km long, from Ludhiana to Kolkata..
59. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has extended the deadline for implementation of Crime and Criminals Tracking network and Systems (CCTNS) project till **March 2017**.
- Note:** It is an ambitious online system and central citizen portal that will link all state-level citizen websites under single platform which will provide a number of citizen friendly services. The services will include reporting a crime, police verification for passports, linkages with UIDAI, transport database and National Population Register
60. **India & World Bank signed agreement of US\$ 308.40 Million for NCRMP-II**

Union Government and World Bank signed 308.40 million US dollar credit agreement in support of the second phase of the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Program (NCRMP-II). The agreement was also signed by the state Governments of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and West Bengal.

#### 61. **Union Government released the Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011 for Rural India -**

##### **Key points -**

(i) Government released the first ever Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) after 80 years on the lines of the 1931 census. The survey was completed in **all the 640 districts**.

(ii) It was released by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

(iii) **Literacy:** Over one-third of population living in rural areas is illiterate. Higher literacy in terms of percentage is in **Kerala (88.62)**, Delhi (86.42), Goa (84.58), Sikkim (79.88) and Himachal Pradesh (77.95).

(iv) **Lowest literacy is in Rajasthan (58)**, Madhya Pradesh (44.19), Bihar (43.85), Telangana (40.42) and Chattisgarh (39.59).

(v) **Male dominance:** majority of **87 per cent** households is male-headed. Nearly 13 per cent do have a female head.

(vi) In rural areas of Rajasthan, around **91 per cent** households are headed by men.

(vii) In Kerala **26 per cent** are women-headed households (highest among the states).

#### 62. **Uttarakhand became first Indian state to install a system to detect earthquakes and disseminate warnings.**

**Note:** (i) The first system has been installed in its capital **Dehradun** which will issue warnings 1-40 seconds before earthquakes of magnitude 5 or more occur. The system is designed and manufactured by Italian firm, Space Dynamics which already has installed it in Japan, Italy and US.

#### 63. **India launched eMigrate system for Foreign Employers who wants to recruit Indian workers, including nurses. Under the system, FEs will have to register in the eMigrate system.**

#### 64. **The Constitution (100th Amendment) Act, 2015 -** President of India Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent to the Constitution (119th Amendment) Bill, 2013 that related to the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) between India and Bangladesh.

**Note:** (i) It is the 100th amendment to the Indian Constitution and amends its first schedule.

- (ii) **The Constitution (100th Amendment ) Act, 2015**, as it is called now, is intended to operationalise the **May 1974 LBA** that pertains to exchange of certain enclaves of land between both the countries.
- (iii) The exchange will see Bangladesh take over 111 enclaves (17160 acres) from India's possession and India, in turn, receive 51 enclaves (7110 acres) from Bangladesh.
- (iv) In Assam, India will get 470 acres of land from Bangladesh, while 268 acres will go to Bangladesh.
- (v) **Enclaves are tiny landlocked territories** that each country has within the borders of the other nation.
- The enclaves in Assam, West Bengal, Tripura and Meghalaya come under the bill's ambit.**
65. **Rajasthan become number one state in the country** in terms of total installed capacity of solar energy. It was revealed in recently released data by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Note:
- (i) Rajasthan with total 1,167 megawatt (MW) installed capacity has surpassed Gujarat (1000 MW) which was previous number one state in the country.
- Top five states in India are (in terms of installed capacity)
1. Rajasthan: 1147 MW.
  2. Gujarat: 1000 MW.
  3. Madhya Pradesh: 58 MW.
  4. Maharashtra: 7 MW.
  5. Andhra Pradesh: 4 MW.
66. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Doordarshan's farmer-centric DD Kisan TV Channel.
67. India's first National University for skill development to be set up in Bihar.
68. BSNL launched mobile wallet service "Speed Pay".
69. BSNL became the first telecom company to offer free national roaming across the country.

70. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced to set up 40,000 Wireless Fidelity (Wi-Fi) hot spots across the country by 2018.
71. Union Government requested the Chief Ministers of Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan to encourage supply of **free milk** in the Mid Day Meal to school children.
72. Memorial for former PM Narasimha Rao constructed at Ekta Sthal Samadhi Complex in New Delhi.
- Note: Already, Ekta Sthal Samadhi Complex** hosts memorials of former Presidents Shankar Dayal Sharma, K R Narayanan, R Venkatraman, Giani Zail Singh and former Prime Ministers - Chandrasekhar and I K Gujral.
73. India's Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) gets clearance to do **business in Bangladesh**: Now, The LIC will start business as the joint venture entity called LIC Bangladesh Ltd with a paid-up capital of 1 billion Takas with LIC holding half of it.
74. Union Government launched "Khoya Paya" "**Khoyapaya.gov.in**", web portal. This is the first citizen based website to exchange information on missing and found children.
75. **Jind and Karnal** districts of Haryana and **Muzaffarnagar** of Uttar Pradesh were included in National Capital Region.
76. Union Government increases number of work days under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) **from 100 days to 150 days** in **drought-affected** areas of the country.
77. India's first AC double-decker train launched from Lucknow to New Delhi.
78. The Union Government approved and lowers the age limit for juveniles involved in heinous crimes from 18 yrs to 16 yrs. -
79. The govt. of India approved **33% women** reservation in police forces of all Union Territories.

## International News -

1. **PM Narendra Modi** is world's **13th most** influential person: Bloomberg
- Note:** The list of 50 most influential people is topped by **Federal Reserve chairperson Janet Yellen**, followed by **Chinese President Xi Jinping** on the second position with **Apple CEO Tim Cook** occupying the third slot.
2. Germany offers **India 2 billion euros** for solar energy projects and clean energy corridor.
  3. **Britain signed a landmark nuclear deal with China** to build the United Kingdom's first nuclear power plant since the 1980s.
- Note:** The landmark deal was signed in London during the official visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping. The agreement is considered as the first major Chinese investment in Western nuclear facility.

4. **Cow becomes national animal of Nepal** - Cow, which is sacred to Hindus, has been declared the national animal of Nepal in the country's newly-unveiled secular constitution.
  5. **Powerful Typhoon Koppu** (also known as Lando) has hit the northern **Philippines** battering the coast with powerful winds with speed of 240 kph.
  6. **Pakistan and Russia** have signed a major agreement to **build a 1,100-km North-South gas pipeline from Lahore to Karachi**.
- Note:** In this project, Russia will invest 2 billion dollars and it will be built by Russian company RT Global Resources, a subsidiary of Russian state corporation Rostec.
7. World Food Day (WFD) - 16 October
- Theme 2015 - **Social Protection and Agriculture**.

8. United States has announced to **extend its military presence in Afghanistan beyond 2016** as per shift in policy to further cooperate for fighting terrorists.
9. China operationalises **Zam Hydropower Station on Brahmaputra** in Tibet. **The dam** is considered to be the world's **highest-altitude** hydropower station and largest of its kind.
10. **India gives \$ 5 million grant to Palestine** - India has given a grant of five million US Dollars to Palestine as Budgetary assistance.  
**President of Palestine - Mahmoud Abbas**
11. **Iran's Parliament** gives Preliminary approval for Nuclear Deal -  
**Note: (i)** The Parliament of Iran has passed a bill that allows the government to implement a historic nuclear deal reached with world powers i.e. P5+1 countries.  
**(ii) The Nuclear deal** between Iran and so-called **P5+1 US, UK, France, China and Russia** plus Germany was struck in July 2015 after 20 months of negotiations.
12. **11 October: International Day of Girl Child**  
**2015 theme:** 'The Power of the Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030'.
13. **World Egg Day - 9 October 2015**  
Note: World Egg Day was observed on 9 October 2015 as it is being celebrated every year on second Friday of October as per the directives of International Egg Commission.
14. **12 Pacific Rim countries sign Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement**  
**Note: (i) 12 other Pacific Rim** countries have signed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement which covers about 40 per cent of the world economy.  
**(ii)** These 12 countries are: Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Canada, United States, Mexico, Peru, Chile, Australia and New Zealand.
15. **IS militants blows up Palmyra's iconic Arc of Triumph** - Islamic State (IS) militants have blown up the iconic **Arch of Triumph** in the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra. **Arch of Triumph was a centrepiece** of the **UNESCO world heritage site** of ancient ruins of Palmyra. It dated between 193 and 211 AD.  
**Note:** Earlier in August 2015, IS militant group had destroyed the ancient Temple of **Baalshamin** in same region of Palmyra.
16. **Extreme poverty to fall below 10% for first time: World Bank** - For the first time less than **10 per cent** of the world's population will be living in extreme poverty **by the end of 2015**. It was revealed by the World Bank report projections released by Bank President Jim Yong Kim in Washington, US.
17. **World Habitat Day - 5 October 2015**  
**Theme for year 2015: Public Spaces for All.**
18. **Germany celebrates 25 years of unity** - Germany celebrated 25 years of reunification on 3 October 2015 marking the day in 1990 when communist East Germany and capitalist West Germany reunited country.
19. **United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)** has unanimously adopted US-sponsored resolution on **Sri Lanka** on the report submitted by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka
20. **1st October: International day of Older Persons**
21. **Theme for year 2015:** 'Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment'.
22. **Taliban militants have captured** the strategic northern **Afghan city of Kunduz** in a massive assault involving hundreds of fighters.
23. **G-4 countries viz Brazil, Germany, India and Japan** have issued a Joint Statement on United Nations Security Council Reforms (UNSC).  
**Note:** It was issued after G-4 meeting held in New York, US which was called by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe.
24. **September 21: International Day of Peace**  
**The theme for the year 2015** is Partnerships for Peace- Dignity for All.
25. **Nepal adopts new Constitution** - Nepal has adopted new Constitution marking the country's transition to a secular and democratic republic. The new Constitution was unveiled by Nepalese President Ram Baran Yadav at a special ceremony held in Parliament at Kathmandu.
26. Highest mountain of North America **Mt McKinley renamed as Denali** - The highest mountain of North America renamed as **Denali instead** of its existing name Mt McKinley by US President Barack Obama.
27. **Kazakhstan to host IAEA nuclear fuel bank to assist non-proliferation.** - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Kazakhstan have signed an agreement to create the world's first internationally-controlled bank of low-enriched uranium in the ex-Soviet nation to ensure fuel supplies for power stations and prevent nuclear proliferation.
28. **Hungary Declares** state of Emergency over Refugee Influx. Hungarian Government has declared a state of emergency in its two regions of Csongrad and Bacs-Kiskun to cope with the influx of refugees. It was declared by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban
29. **Canada's economy** has fallen into a **recession** for first time after global financial crisis of 2009.
30. **Australia unveils** plan to reduce emissions **by 26-28 per cent by 2030**
31. **China devaluated** Yuan by **2 per cent** largest since 1994. In line with economic slowdown in China, the People's Banks of China devalued yuan by **2 per cent against the US dollar**. Devaluation was done based on a new way of managing the exchange rate that better reflected market forces which differs greatest from the one introduced at the start of 1994.



**32. Egypt launches Suez Canal expansion** - Egypt has launched a major expansion of the Suez Canal. It was inaugurated by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in a lavish ceremony held at port city of Ismailiya (located on west bank of canal).

**Note:** Suez Canal was opened in 1869 after ten years of construction. It is an artificial waterway in Egypt that connects Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea. The canal allows traders and ships to navigate between Europe without passing through Africa.

**33. NASA inks US \$490 million contract with Russia for ISS travel** - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has extended a contract worth US \$490 million with Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) to carry US astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

**34. 10th August: World Bio-Fuel Day**

**35. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the foreign arm of state-owned petroleum explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), announced to acquire up to 15 per cent stake in CSJC Vankorneft, which owns Russia's second-largest oil and gas field, Vankor, in eastern Siberia.**

**36. United Nations 193 member states have reached an agreement on the outcome document New Sustainable Development Agenda for the next 15 years i.e. till 2030. The new agenda draft document called "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was built on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).**

**37. Pakistan formally conferred Associate Membership status by European Organisation for Nuclear Research (also known as CERN).**

**Note:** The membership was granted after Pakistan formally completed the required internal ratification process. **With this, Pakistan became the first Asian country to become member of CERN.**

#### About CERN

- ✓ European Organization for Nuclear Research (also known as CERN) is the world's largest particle physics laboratory.
- ✓ CERN in French stands for Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire.
- ✓ It has 22 member states. Israel is the first and only non-European country with full membership status. Location:
- ✓ It is situated in the North West suburbs of **Geneva on the France-Switzerland Border.**
- ✓ **Established:** It was established in 1954.
- ✓ Main function: To provide the infrastructure needed for high energy physics research including particle accelerators. It should be noted that,
- ✓ India is currently having observer status in CERN programmes.

**38. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched military exercise Trident Juncture in Italy.**

**39. Varanasi chosen as the 'city of music' by UNESCO.**

**40. Conakry, the capital of the Republic of Guinea named as World Book Capital for 2017 by UNESCO.**

**41. Asia's largest book fair held in Hong Kong.**

**42. UNESCO grants champagne industry world heritage status** - The Champagne Hillsides, Houses and Cellars of **France** has been granted with the World Heritage Status by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**43. Meiji Period Sites of Japan gets UNESCO World Heritage Site Status** - Japan's Meiji-era (1868-1912) industrial revolution sites have received World Cultural Heritage status from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**44. India to be world's most populous country by**

**2022: UN:** According to the report, India will surpass China to become the most populous nation in the world by 2022.

**45. World's largest flower "Amorphophallus Titanum" blooms in Tokyo:** World's largest flower 'Amorphophallus Titanum' bloomed for the first time in 5 years in the fourth week of July 2015 at the Jindai botanical gardens in Tokyo, Japan. The flower Titan arum measuring 2-meter (6.5 feet) in height rarely flowers and is notoriously difficult to propagate

**46. World's first malaria vaccination approved:** The shot, called RTS,S or Mosquirix, would be the first licensed human vaccine against a parasitic disease and could help prevent millions of cases of malaria in countries that use it. The vaccine was developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative.

**47. Bangladesh became first country to receive funds from UN for Solar Home Systems.**

**Note:** Bangladesh became the first country to receive funds from the United Nations (UN) for its fast growing solar home systems. The UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) issued **395286** carbon credits worth 3.56 million US Dollar to two Bangladeshi organisations.

**(ii) Infrastructure Development Company**

**Ltd (IDCOL) and Grameen Shakti** are the two organisations that won the carbon credits. The UNFCCC has issued 212482 carbon credits to the IDCOL and 182804 credits to Grameen Shakti.

**(iii)** Bangladesh has installed around 6 million small solar home systems covering over 10 percent of its 160 million population.

**(iv)** Being one of the lowest carbon emitters and one of the most climate-change vulnerable countries, Bangladesh has emerged as one of fastest growing solar energy users with rural households using



renewable energy for lighting, running fans and TVs and charging mobile phones.

48. Microsoft launches most awaited **Windows 10** operating system.
49. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras resigned.
50. Prime Minister of Libya Abdullah al-Thani announced his resignation.
51. General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) approved the membership terms of Kazakhstan, thus enabling it to join the world trade body as 162nd member.
52. European Union gave in-principle approval for 86 billion euro bailout package to Greece - The European Union (EU) Summit gave in principle approval to a bailout package worth between 82- 86 billion euro to Greece. The Summit was held in Brussels, Belgium.
53. The United States of America (USA) formally designated Tunisia as the 16th Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA).  
**Note:** The MNNA status offers tangible privileges including eligibility for training, loans of equipment for cooperative research and development, and Foreign Military Financing for commercial leasing of certain defense articles by the USA to Tunisia.
54. **Vienna agreement** - Iran and P5+1 countries comprising of the United States, the United Kingdom (UK), Russia, China, France and Germany reached an agreement on the Iran nuclear programme.  
**Note: (i)** The agreement called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA) or Vienna agreement was reached after 17 days of almost uninterrupted negotiations in Vienna involving foreign ministers of seven countries.  
**(ii)** Now, the Vienna agreement needs to be ratified by the UN Security Council (UNSC) and will come into force 90 days later.
55. **Forbes released the World's Highest-Paid Actors 2015 list** - The list, that includes names of 34 global actors, was topped by Robert Downey Jr., for the third year in a row, with earnings of 80 million US dollars.  
**Note:** Jackie Chan was placed at the second place in the list and Vin Diesel stood at the third spot.  
**(ii)** The three Indian actors ranked among top 10 highest paid actors are Amitabh Bachchan and Salman Khan at No. 7 and Akshay Kumar at 9th position.
56. India and Kazakhstan launched the first exploratory drilling at Satpayev oil block owned by India's ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and Kazakhstan company KazMunaiGaz.
57. **Greece becomes the first developed nation to default on International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt.**  
Major points:
  - ✓ It has defaulted on a **1.7 billion dollars (1.5 billion Euro)** payment to IMF.
  - ✓ The Eurozone Finance Ministers refused to extend its bailout to Greece after it rejected the

proposal given by the troika viz., International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Commission (EC) and European Central Bank (ECB).

- ✓ Greece, which is now in debts, is at a risk of leaving Euro and shifting back to its old currency Drachma.
  - ✓ Euro replaced Drachma as a currency of Greece in 2001 (at the rate of 340.750 drachma to the euro). This may have a major implication for Greece economy and its exports.
  - ✓ The use of **Drachma** by Greece, which will be of lower value than Euro, will lead to increase in the cost of imports raising the specter of inflation in the already battling economy.
58. **Indian Railways & Indian Army among world's biggest employers:** WEF - According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) report, the Indian Railways and Indian Army are the two Indian organizations among the world's biggest employers. Indian Railways was placed at 8th position with 1.4 million staff, while Indian Army was placed at 9th position with 1.3 million employees in the list of world's biggest employers.  
**Note: US department of Defense** is the **world's biggest employer** with over 3.2 million employees and Chinese military People's Liberation Army (PLA) is second biggest employer with 2.3 million employees.
  59. United States surpass Saudi Arabia to become world's largest oil producer.
  60. Oklahoma becomes the first state in the United States to allow the use of nitrogen gas as a method of execution.
  61. Palestine formally became the newest state party to the International Criminal Court (ICC).
  62. **India assumed Presidency of the 68th World Health Assembly:** After 19 years, India on 18 May 2015 assumed Presidency of the 68th World Health Assembly (WHA).
  63. **Edge" Microsoft next Web Browser:** Microsoft has announced Edge as its next Web Browser's name at the Build Developer Conference held at San Francisco in California, USA. Earlier, Microsoft had called it as Project Spartan; a code name given by the company. The browser is intended to replace the Internet Explorer (IE) in future.

#### China in News -

1. **China establishes world's largest cancer registry:**  
China has established the world's largest cancer registry system that will ensure that over 300 million
2. **China overtook the United States** to become world's top importer of crude oil for the first time in April.  
**Note: i.** China is already the world's biggest energy consumer.  
**ii.** Saudi Arabia is the world's top crude exporter.

3. China nominated its former finance Minister **Jin Liqun** as the Presidential candidate for Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
4. **China, India, Russia to be top 3 shareholders of AIIB: Report** - According to the Chinese officials of AIIB, China will be the largest shareholder with a 30.85 per cent stake in the newly initiative Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) which will be followed by India and Russia. China is likely to have a 30.85 per cent share in the bank, followed by India with 10.4 per cent.  
**About Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**  
 ✓ **Headquarter** – Beijing, China.

- ✓ **Authorized capital:** It will be of 100 billion US dollars. The initial subscribed capital will be around 50 billion US Dollar and the paid-in ratio will be 20 per cent.
- ✓ **Largest shareholders:** China is highest contributor to AIIB with 29.78 billion US dollars i.e. with a 30.34 percent stake in authorized capital. China will have 26.06 per cent of the voting rights along with veto powers for certain key decisions.
- ✓ India: second largest shareholder with 8.52 per cent stake and voting share of 7.5 per cent.
- ✓ Russia: third largest shareholder with 6.66 stake and voting share of 5.92 per cent.

## News around the States

### Andhra Pradesh

1. **Godavari River** formally interlinked with the Krishna River at Ibrahimpatnam near Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh
2. **Andhra Pradesh launches e-Pragati to bring all government services under one roof** - e-Pragati, a comprehensive architecture to leverage the latest advances in e-governance tools. With this launch, Andhra Pradesh became first state in India to execute and conceive state-wide enterprise e-governance architecture.
3. Tata Trusts has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Government to develop 264 villages. Under this initiative, all 264 villages in the Vijayawada constituency will be developed in order to transform them into smart villages.
4. **Union Government has announced Special Assistance of 1000 crore rupees** to the Andhra Pradesh Government for development projects during the financial year 2015-16.
5. **Government sanctioned 1,500-MW ultra mega solar power park for Andhra Pradesh.**  
**Note:** The Ministry for New and Renewable Energy sanctioned a 1,500-MW ultra mega solar power park for Andhra Pradesh. The 1,500 MW ultra mega solar park will be developed in Kadapa district by NTPC, which will be the third mega park of over 1,000 MW to be taken up by the state.

### Arunachal Pradesh

1. Arunachal Pradesh becomes the first state in the country to launch web-based education programmes for all schools. The system is a solution built for teachers and students through Chrome books to bring the power of the web into classroom. The State

government has started the programme in collaboration with Google.

### Bihar –

1. The World Bank approved 250 million US dollar credit for the Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness in Bihar Programme. The credit will be provided to improve the effectiveness of elementary school teachers in Bihar by making them more qualified, accountable and responsive.
2. **BHEL** commissioned a thermal unit of Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited, KBUNL, in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.

### Gujarat –

1. Gujarat Government launched a special **Khadi Utsav** in Ahmedabad to promote khadi on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 146th birth anniversary.
2. **Gujarat become the first state in India to launch 'Agro-Solar Policy'** to encourage the farmers to tap the solar energy. The new policy seeks to encourage the farmers in the state to tap free solar energy from sun, which will in turn help them to earn additional income from power generation companies.
3. India's first broad-gauge railway-line built under PPP model inaugurated between Gandhidham and Tuna-Tekra Port in Gujarat.
4. India's first International Financial Services Centre opened at GIFT city in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

### Himachal Pradesh –

1. HP to host **Paragliding World Cup 2015** for the first time. The world cup will be held on October 2015, under the aegis of Para-gliding World Cup Association at Bir Billing in Kangra valley.

**Haryana –**

1. **Haryana bagged Skoch Order-of-Merit national award** for implementation of six e-Governance and IT initiatives in the state.
2. **Haryana Government sets minimum qualification for candidates in Panchayati Raj polls** - Haryana Assembly has passed Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2015 that seeks to fix matriculation as minimum educational qualification for elections to Panchayati Raj institutions (PRIs).  
**Note:** With this Haryana became second state in India after Rajasthan to fix educational and other qualifications for the candidates contesting Panchayat elections.

**Kerala –**

1. **Perumanna Grama Panchayat** in Kozhikode district of Kerala has become the first Panchayat in the State, to declare its own water policy.
2. **Kerala Govt declares state as "Digital State"** - Kerala Government has declared state totally digital, thus becoming first state in the country to achieve it.
3. Kerala Government inaugurated a 12 MW solar power project at **Cochin International Airport**.  
**Note:**  
(i) With this project, Cochin airport **became the first airport in India to run on solar power**. This project is estimated to generate approximately 50000 units of electricity daily. Through this project, the airport will technically become grid power neutral.  
(ii) The project comprises 46150 solar panels laid across 45 acres near the cargo complex. The project is executed by Bosch Energy and Building Solutions (BEBS) team in India.

**Maharashtra –**

1. Maharashtra Government **declared 2017** as Visit **Maharashtra Year**
2. **Mumbai gets a flamingo sanctuary** - Mumbai is setting another record after being home to a national park with the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, which came into being on Friday, is on its periphery. The sanctuary will be the State's second marine sanctuary after the one at Malvan
3. **Tata Power launched LED tube light scheme in Mumbai** - Tata Power, India's largest integrated power company launched LED tube light scheme in Mumbai for its residential consumer. Under the scheme, Tata will provide five lights to each household at 525 rupees per piece against market price of 1325 rupees. The scheme aims at encouraging the residents in Mumbai to adopt energy efficient lights, thus, saving power.
4. Maharashtra government has roped Superstar **Amitabh Bachchan** & Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as

its new **ambassador** for the **Tiger Conservation Project**.

5. **Kumbh Mela** - World's largest religious gathering Sinhashta Kumbh Mela has begun at Trimbakeshwar, Nashik district of Maharashtra.
6. **Digital villages** - Microsoft to develop '**digital villages**' and a 'smart MIDC' (industrial colony) in Maharashtra under state's flagship 'Make In Maharashtra' initiative.

**Madhya Pradesh –**

1. **Madhya Pradesh Government launches M-Shiksha-Mitra mobile app for teachers** - To provide various services and teaching-related work to teacher in a simple and easy way, Madhya Pradesh Government launched M-Shiksha-Mitra mobile app. With this, Madhya Pradesh became the first state to develop such mobile app for teachers.
2. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) commissioned a 500 MW coal-based power plant unit at Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Station (STPS) in Vindhyannagar, Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh.
3. The Guinness Book of World Records has recognised a record created in Madhya Pradesh on 'World Hand washing Day' in 2014. This record broke the earlier the world record which was jointly held by Argentina, Peru and Mexico.
4. Shree Singaji Thermal Power Plant (600 MW) launched in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
5. Asian Development Bank to provide **\$400 m loan** to improve district roads in Madhya Pradesh and to support improvements to power transmission and distribution systems in Assam.
6. **Madhya Pradesh won national award for excellent work in MGNREGA**: Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the 10th national award for excellent work in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act - MGNREGA. Madhya Pradesh is at the top in construction of permanent assets through MGNREGA convergence in the country.

**Odisha –**

1. **Odisha Govt. renames Wheeler Island as Abdul Kalam Island** - The Odisha govt. has renamed the wheeler island, the missile launching station of the Defense and Research Development Organization in the Bay of Bengal close to Dharma coast in the state after former President **Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam**.

**Punjab –**

1. **Punjab Government establishes Special MGNREGA cell** - Punjab Government has established a special MGNREGA cell to coordinate effective implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the state. It has been established by Punjab Rural

Development and Panchayat Department at Chandigarh with an outlay of 233 crore rupees.

- Punjab Government wins award for achievement in rooftop solar power output** - Punjab Government has won first award in the category of highest capacity addition in grid connected solar rooftop power in the country during the financial year 2014-15.

#### Rajasthan –

- Rajasthan Government notifies 5% quota for Gujjars and other SBCs**  
**Note:** The Act came into force from October 16, 2015. It will provide 5% reservation in educational institutes and government jobs to Gujjars, Raibari, Banjara and Gadiya Lohar communities in the state.
- Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to submit State Annual Action Plan under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).**

#### Tamil Nadu –

- Tamil Nadu's **first Global Investors Summit** (TNGIM 2015) held in Chennai.
- World Bank offers \$400 million loan to the Tamil Nadu government for its Sustainable Urban Development Project.

#### Telangana

- 12-day Godavari Maha Pushkaram began in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**  
**Note:** The 12-day Godavari Maha Pushkaram held on on the banks of River Godavari in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.  
**(ii)** Godavari Pushkaram occurs once in 12 years, Godavari Mahapushkaram is a unique event which happens once in 144 years.

#### About Godavari Pushkaram

- Pushkaram is a holy festival that is celebrated once in every 12 years at each of the 12 major rivers of India, the Godavari is one among them.
- Every 12th year Jupiter's entry into the constellation Leo marks the Pushkaram for Godavari. The celebrations include reverence of ancestors, spiritual discourses, devotional music and cultural programmes.

#### Tripura

- First Kisan Call Centre (KCC) of North- East opened in Agartala, Tripura.
- Tripura government has decided to withdraw the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), 1958 from the remaining areas of the state.

#### Background

- Union Government had enforced AFSPA in Tripura after the relentless violence and bloodshed in tribal areas of state in February 1997.
- Since then, it was reviewed and extended in every six months as per the provisions of the Act. The last six-month extension was given in November 2014 and its term ends by the end of May 2015.
- At the time of imposition of Act in the state, there were only 42 police stations and two-third of the entire police station areas were under this Act.
- Presently, the number of police station areas are 74 and out of them 26 police stations are fully and four police stations partly under this Act.

#### Uttarakhand –

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand as India's 48th Tiger Reserve. With this approval, Uttarakhand has now got a second tiger reserve after the Corbett Tiger Reserve.
- Uttarakhand becomes No. 2 in tiger population:** Uttarakhand has ranked second among Indian states in terms of tiger population after Karnataka in India. Uttarakhand has registered 340 tigers - a rise of 113 tigers since the last census (227) becoming the second state in the country. Karnataka with 406 tigers became the first state with highest number of tigers in the country.

#### Uttar Pradesh –

- Uttar Pradesh Government launched mobile app **mSehat for health workers** - Uttar Pradesh Government launched the mobile app mSehat for health workers to record maternal and infant data in real-time. The application is aimed at improving the infant mortality rate outcomes.
- Uttar Pradesh government decided to rename **UPTU** as **APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University**  
**Note:**  
**(i)** The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Cabinet approved UP Technical University (Amendment) Bill, 2015.  
**(ii)** The Bill amends the UP Technical University Act, 2000 to rename the Uttar Pradesh Technical University (UPTU) as **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (APJAKTU)**.
- Uttar Pradesh Government renamed the **Lucknow Prani Udyan**, popularly known as Lucknow zoo, as Nawab Wajid Ali Shah Prani Udyan, Lucknow.  
**Note:** Shah was the last Nawab of Oudh under whom the province was annexed by the British under the policy of Doctrine of Lapse in 1856. Later, Shah was exiled to Matia Birj in Bengal.  
**Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary** in Unnao recently renamed after – **freedom fighter Chandrashekhar Azad**



## West Bengal

1. Nadia district in West Bengal has won the **United Nations Public Service Award 2015** in the category

of improving delivery of public services for or eliminating open defecation in the district.

## Important Agreements/ MoU Signed/ Deals: India & Abroad

1. The Union Cabinet approved the Protocol between **India and Israel** and between **Indian and Vietnam** for avoidance of **double taxation and for prevention of fiscal** evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital.

2. Union Cabinet gives nod to amend MoU on **Indo-German Partnerships** in **Higher Education**. The Union Cabinet gave its approval for minor amendments in earlier MoU signed to facilitate implementation of Indo-German Strategic Partnerships in Higher Education Programme

3. India, Germany ink **18 MoUs and agreements in various sectors** - India and Germany have signed around 18 agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoUs) in various sectors. These agreements were signed at the end of third edition of Indo-German Inter-governmental Consultations (ICG) in New Delhi.

The Indo-German ICG was co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting counterpart German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

### Note:

- ✓ Some important agreements signed are Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Languages: It seeks to promote German as a foreign language in India and promote modern Indian Languages in Germany.
- ✓ MoU on Solar Energy.
- ✓ MoU on Skill Development
- ✓ MoU on Aviation Security
- ✓ MoU on Disaster Management.
- ✓ MoU on Higher Education.
- ✓ JDI in the field of Railways
- ✓ MoU in the field of manufacturing.

4. Union Cabinet approved Framework for Cooperation in **Blue Economy between India and Seychelles**

5. India and Jordan have signed six Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in various fields.

- ✓ MoU on executive programme for cultural exchange between the Jordanian and Indian governments.
- ✓ MoU on Communication and Information Technology to cooperate in the field of ICT and electronics fields.
- ✓ MoU between Jordan News Agency Petra and the Press Trust of India (PTI).

- ✓ MoU on Maritime Transport Sector.
- ✓ MoU between Jordan Institute of Diplomacy and Indian Foreign Service Institute (IFSI).
- ✓ MoU between Indian Metrological Department (IMD) and Jordan Standards and Metrology Organisation to cooperate in assessment techniques.

**Note:** Jordan Prime Minister - Abdullah Ensour

6. **Indian, Chinese firms ink 15 MoUs** worth \$590 million - As many as **15 MoUs with investment potential of \$590 million** have been signed between Chinese and Indian firms across various sectors, including development of industrial parks in Gujarat.
7. **India and Ecuador** has signed a Protocol for the establishment of the India-Ecuador Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations.
8. **Malaysia proposed to invest 30 billion US dollars for urban development in India** - The Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) of Malaysia proposed to invest 30 billion US dollars in urban development and housing projects in India.
9. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has decided to provide **120 million dollars** loan to upgrade the **India-Bangladesh electricity network**.
10. **India, Australia** agrees to deepen bilateral Defence Partnership.
11. **India, Indonesia** sign pact to cooperate on criminal matters.
12. **India and Laos have inked two key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)** on Air services and Quick Impact Projects under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) programme to strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations.
13. Union Cabinet approves **MoU with Cambodia** for cooperation in tourism.
14. India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for constructing a Petroleum Product Pipeline which will be built from Raxaul in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal.
15. India and Australia signed an agreement on cooperation in the fields of education, training and research.
16. India and World Bank signed Financing Agreement for assistance of 250 million US dollars for Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project.
17. India and Canada signed an agreement in the field of Civil Aviation.



18. India, Egypt signed two MoUs to deepen bilateral cooperation.
  - (i) Cooperation in the field of Tourism
  - (ii) MoU on scientific and technical Cooperation
19. The Union Cabinet approved signing of the agreement between India and Afghanistan on legal and judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters for the service of summons, judicial documents, commissions, execution of judgements and arbitral awards.
20. Pakistan and Russia signed a landmark defence agreement that includes the sale of four Mi-35 Hind E attack helicopters to Pakistan.
21. India and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to tackle the menace of **fake Indian currency notes** (FICN) smuggling.
22. India, **Mozambique signed** MoU to boost ties in **Renewable Energy Sector**.
23. **Canada agrees to supply Uranium to India**: Canada has agreed to supply 3,000 metric tonnes of uranium to India under a \$254 million **five-year deal to power** Indian atomic reactors. Canada's Cameco Corporation will supply uranium to India for the next five years starting from this year.

## **Modi's visit to Silicon Valley: Key announcements and MoUs signed**

- ✓ **Silicon Valley**- Silicon Valley is a nickname for the **southern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area**, which is located in the part of the U.S. state **of California known as Northern California**. It is home to many of the world's largest high-tech corporations, as well as thousands of tech startup companies with **Google, Apple and Facebook** among the most prominent. It's also the site of technology-focused institutions.
- ✓ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited** USA. This is the second visit of Narendra Modi to USA. Prime Minister leaves for 7 days trip to visit Ireland and USA. He started his seven-day trip from Ireland.
- Key points –**
- ✓ On September 23, he flew to New York, where he addressed a **UN Sustainable Development Summit** and participated in a Summit on peacekeeping hosted by **US President Barack Obama**.
- ✓ **In San Jose, PM Modi** interacted with the Indian community on September 27. On the last day of his visit, Modi met leaders of the three permanent members of the UN Security Council – **US President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron and French President Francois Hollande**.
- ✓ His visit aimed to give a big boost to startups in India, Digital India Campaign and so on. During his visit, he headed to Silicon Valley, where he visited **Tesla** (Electric Car Maker Tesla Motors).
- ✓ During his visit, Modi meet **Apple CEO Tim Cook, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg** and electric carmaker **Tesla's CEO Elon Musk, Satya Nadella of Microsoft, Sundar Pichai of Google**, among others.
- ✓ **India-US start-up Konnect 2015** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the India-US Start-up Konnect 2015. In the Start-Up Konnect, as many as seven Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed between various organisations of India and the US.

## **List of MoUs signed during his visit**

- ✓ The **first MoU was signed between Centre for Cellular and Molecular** Platforms and the California Institute for Quantitative Biosciences. The MoU aims to develop Indo-US Life Science Sister Innovation Hub so as to enhance science-based entrepreneurship, research, academia and businesses by leveraging each other's ecosystems.
- ✓ **National Association of Software and Service Companies** (NASSCOM) and the Indus Entrepreneurs signed a MoU to collaborate in a mutually satisfactory form and manner in order to support the creation of a vibrant ecosystem to foster technology entrepreneurship in India and Silicon Valley.

- ✓ **IIM Ahmedabad's CIIE signed a MoU with Tata Trust** for founding partner for the Bharat Fund, which will provide seed funding to Indian entrepreneurs. Bharat fund is 150 million US dollar fund dedicated to health, agriculture and renewable energy sector. Bharat Fund is launched by Narendra Modi.

### Key announcements made by Google, Facebook and Microsoft

- ✓ Google will soon help India set up base for free Wi-Fi at **500 railway stations**.
- ✓ Microsoft will take low-cost broadband technology to **some five lakh villages in India**.
- ✓ Microsoft announced availability of its cloud services operating out of India's data centers from October 2015.
- ✓ Google announced to boost writing in native languages. Google would make it possible for people to type in 10 different languages in India. This move will help to push digital literacy forward.
- ✓ Qualcomm announced to invest **USD 150 million for Indian startups** in the mobile and internet of everything (IoE) ecosystem to push Digital India initiative.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also invited Apple CEO Tim Cook to set up a manufacturing base in India.

## PM Narendra Modi's UAE visit

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the first Indian PM to visit the Gulf nation in 34 years.
- ✓ United Arab Emirates have promised to invest **\$75 billion** in India.
- ✓ **PM Modi Rides Self-Driving Car in Masdar, World's First Zero-Carbon City**
- ✓ Land allotment for a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi - UAE government agreed to allot land for a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi, which PM Modi called 'a great step.'
- ✓ **Defence cooperation** - India & UAE agreed to strengthen defence cooperation through regular exercises and training, and manufacturing defense equipment in India.
- ✓ **Counter-terrorism operations** - Both countries have been in conflict with Islamist militants, and the statement undertook to increase cooperation in counter-terrorism operations and intelligence sharing.
- ✓ **'MADAD'** - PM Narendra Modi noted that Indian mission in UAE has set up an e-migrant portal to help Indian migrant workers and an online platform **'MADAD'** to assist the diaspora.
- ✓ UAE backs India for a permanent seat for the UN Security Council
- ✓ **Boost to trade** - India & UAE also agreed to boost trade by 60 per cent over the next five years.  
**Note: (i)** India is the UAE's second-largest trading partner and the UAE is India's third largest, behind the US and China, according to the Indian Embassy.  
**(i)** Trade between India and the UAE reached \$60 billion last year.
- ✓ **Welfare fund, e-migrant portal for expats** Indian expats in trouble can now get financial help, including for fighting legal cases, under a new scheme announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of various measures for the welfare of diaspora.
- ✓ **Note - UAE - President - Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, PM - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**
- ✓ **Capital - Abu Dhabi, Currency - Dirham**

## Obituaries

- | National   |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <b>Admiral Radhakrishna Hariram Tahilian</b> - Former Chief of the Naval Staff                                | 8. <b>Swami Dayanand Saraswati</b> - Revered monk of the Hindu monastic order          |
| 2. Legendary Tamil actress <b>Gopishantha</b> , popularly known by her stage name <b>Manorama</b> , passed away. | 9. <b>Jagmohan Dalmiya</b> - President of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) |
| 3. <b>Natesan Ramani</b> - Renowned Carnatic Flautist  | 10. <b>Bal Pandit</b> - Renowned Marathi cricket commentator & Writer                  |
| 4. <b>Ravindra Jain</b> - Renowned music director and lyricist   | 11. <b>Aadesh Shrivastava</b> - Music Composer   |
| 5. <b>Edida Nageswara Rao</b> - Noted Telugu film producer   | 12. <b>Yogi Berra</b> - Baseball legend  |
| 6. <b>Syed Ahmed</b> - Manipur Governor  | 13. <b>Kalamandalam Sathyabhama</b> - Renowned Classical dancer                        |
| 7. <b>Hoping Stone Lyngdoh</b> , Meghalaya's oldest and longest serving legislator, passed away                  | 14. <b>Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam</b> - Former President of India                             |

**Note:** He became the 11th President of the country.

15. **Suva Mukherjee** – India's first lady wife of President Pranab Mukherjee)

**Note:** She had written two books Chokher Aloey (personal account of her close interaction with former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi) and Chena Achenai Chin (a travelogue recounting her visit to China).

16. **Dr. Suniti Solomon** – Indian microbiologist and HIV/AIDS researcher.

**Note:** She was the first person in India who documented the nation's first HIV/AIDS case in 1986 and later set up Y R Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education (YRG CARE) – the first voluntary testing and counseling center for the disease.

17. **Colonel Harwant Singh (retd.)** – Hero of World War II

**Note:** He was officer in charge of the flag hoisting ceremony on the first Independence Day of India in 1947.

18. **Om Prakash Munjal** – Founder of Hero Cycle
19. **Bhalchandra Pendharkar** - Veteran Marathi stage actor, singer and drama producer
20. **Vasundhara Komkali** – Eminent Musician
21. **P Hariharan** – Eminent Physicist
22. **Pranab Kumar Borah** - Veteran journalist

### International

1. **Gamal al-Ghitani** - Renowned Egyptian novelist and journalist
2. **Geoffrey Howe** - Former British Finance Minister
3. **Frank Tyson** - Former England Fast Bowler
4. **Frank D Gilroy** - Pulitzer prize-winning playwright
5. **Clive Rice** - Former South African cricketer
6. **Tom Moore** - Archie Comics cartoonist
7. **Frances Oldham Kelsey** - the Canadian doctor who played a central role in preventing the drug thalidomide being distributed in the US.

8. **James Horner** - Titanic Composer.
9. **Matti Makkonen** - The man responsible for conceiving the idea of short messaging service (SMS) technology.
10. **Charles Correa** - Renowned Architect.
11. **B.B. King** - Renowned Guitarist.
12. **Bob Belden** - Veteran jazz musician.
13. **John Nash Jr.** - The mathematician is renowned for his work in game theory, and for winning the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1994..

## New Books & Authors

1. The Courage to Act - A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath authored by Ben S. Bernanke
2. Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India: auto biography of Sam Pitroda written with the help of David Chanoff, an American author.
3. The Clintons' War on Women authored by Roger Stone and Robert Morrow
4. Ruled or Misruled: Story and Destiny of Bihar authored by the Assistant Editor of the Indian Express' Santosh Singh
5. Hungry Bengal. War, Famine, Riots and the End of Empire authored by Janam Mukherjee
6. Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights authored by the British Indian novelist Salman Rushdie
7. To the Brink and Back: India's 1991 Story written by former Union Environment & Forest Minister (Independent Charge) Jairam Ramesh.
8. Globalisation, Democratization and Distributive Justice authored by Mool Chand Sharma
9. 30 Women in Power: Their Voices, Their Stories authored by Naina Lal Kidwai.
10. Making India Awesome written by – Chetan Bhagat
11. Mrs. Funnybones written by – Twinkle Khanna
12. Ghosts of Calcutta written by – Sebastian Ortiz

13. Green Signals: Ecology, Growth, Democracy in India written by Jairam Ramesh
14. Uniki written by – CH Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra.
15. The China Model written by – Daniel A Bell.
16. Recasting India written by – Hindol Sengupta.
17. Sourav Ganguly: Cricket, Captaincy and Controversy written by Saptarshi Sarkar.
18. Flood of fire written by Amitav Ghosh.
19. "India Central Asia Relations": The Economic Dimension authored by Amiya Chandra.
20. "Kashmir: The Vajpayee Years" – authored by AS Dulat and Aditya Sinha.
21. "37 Bridges and Other Stories" – authored by noted Pakistani author Aamer Hussein.
22. "Modi's World: Expanding India's Sphere of Influence" authored by C Raja.
23. Benazir Bhutto: A Multidimensional Portrait written by Dr Anna Suvorova.
24. "Beyond Doubt: A Dossier on Gandhi's Assassination" written by Teesta Setalvad.
25. "The book Super Economies: America, India, China & The Future Of The World" written by Raghav Bahl.
26. "The Pakistan Paradox" written by Christophe Jaffrelot.

27. "Ahmedabad: A City in the World" written by Amrita Shah.
28. "Unbelievable – Delhi to Islamabad" written by Prof Bhim Singh.

29. "China – Confucius in the Shadows" written by Poonam Surie.

### Most Popular Books written by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ Beyond 2020: Vision for Tomorrow's India    | ✓ Turning Points                                  |
| ✓ My Journey Transforming Dreams Into Actions | ✓ Target 3 Billion                                |
| ✓ India 2020                                  | ✓ Indomitable Spirit                              |
| ✓ Wings of Fire                               | ✓ The Luminous Sparks                             |
| ✓ Ignited Minds                               | ✓ Envisioning an empowered nation                 |
| ✓ Inspiring thoughts                          | ✓ Guiding Souls: Dialogues on the Purpose of Life |

## Awards & Honours

### National

1. **Miss Diva 2015** - Urvashi Rautela.
2. **2015 Hridaynath Mangeskar Award** – Music composer AR Rehman.
3. **J.C. Daniel Award for the year 2014** - Renowned Malayalam filmmaker I.V. Sasi conferred with the award.
4. Shashi Kapoor honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award during the closing ceremony of the 6th Jagran Film Festival in Mumbai.
5. **Skoch Award for Effective Solid Waste Management** -  
The Tiruchirapalli City Municipal Corporation awarded with Skoch Smart Governance Award for Achieving Operational Excellence in Waste Transportation using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based solutions.
6. **Merlin Award** - Zenia Bhumgara of India conferred with the Merlin Award in Mumbai.  
**Note:** The award is a prestigious honour in the field of magic conferred by the International Magicians Association (IMS).
7. **CSIR Award for S&T Innovations for Rural Development (CAIRD) 2014** - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow conferred with the award.
8. **Skoch Award for Smart Governance** - Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) won the Skoch Award for Smart Governance.
9. **2015 Global Leadership Award** - PepsiCo Chairman Indra Nooyi and Hindustan Times Group chairperson Shobhana Bharatia were awarded with the 2015 Global Leadership Award of the US-India Business Council (USIBC).
10. **Jnangarima Manad Alankaran award** - Renowned Urdu scholar Shamim Hanfi honoured with the

Jnangarima Manad Alankaran by Bharatiya Jnanpith in New Delhi.

11. **Haryana bagged the Skoch Order-of-Merit national award** for implementation of six e-Governance and IT initiatives in the state.
12. **Kolkata Port adjudged as the best 'Major Port of 2014-15'.**

**Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology 2015** - CSIR announced Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prize for Science and Technology 2015 for eleven scientists in recognition of their work.

#### List of awardees are –

- ✓ **Biological Sciences:** Dr Balasubramanian Gopal and Dr Rajeev Kumar Varshney
- ✓ **Chemical Sciences:** Dr D Srinivasa Reddy and Dr Pradyut Ghosh
- ✓ **Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences:** Dr Jyotiranjana Srichandan
- ✓ **Engineering Sciences:** Dr Yogesh Moreshwar Joshi
- ✓ **Mathematical Sciences:** Dr K Sandeep and Dr Ritabrata Munshi
- ✓ **Medical Sciences:** Dr Vidita Ashok Vaidya
- ✓ **Physical Sciences:** Dr Bedangadas Mohanty and Dr Mandar Madhukar Deshmukh

13. **Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2015** - Historian and writer Babasaheb Purandare awarded with Maharashtra Bhushan Award 2015.

**Note:** He was credited with writing the first historical work on 16th century Great Maratha king Chattrapati Shivaji. Babasaheb Purandare is famously known as Shiv Shahir, Shivaji's poet.



**14. Dhyan Chand Award 2015** - TPP Nair, SP Misra, Romeo James recommended for 2015 Dhyan Chand Award.

**Note: (i)** TPP Nair, the former captain of the Indian volleyball team, led the Indian team which bagged a silver medal in the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games.

**(ii)** SP Misra is the former captain of Davis Cup and at present is the chairman of the All India Tennis Association Selection Committee (AITASC).

**(iii)** Romeo James, the former goalkeeper of the Indian hockey team, represented the country in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where India finished fifth.

**15. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna 2015** – Sania Mirza (Tennis)

**16. Arjuna Awards 2015** -

1. Naib Subedar Sandeep Kumar (Archery)
2. MR Poovamma (Athletics)
3. K. Srikanth (Badminton)
4. Mandeep Jangra (Boxing)
5. Rohit Sharma (Cricket)
6. Dipa Karmakar (Gymnastic)
7. Sreejesh PR (Hockey)
8. Manjeet Chhillar (Kabaddi)
9. Abhilasha Shashikant Mhatre (Kabaddi)
10. Sawarn Singh (Rowing)
11. Anup Kumar Yama (Roller Skating)
12. Jitu Rai (Shooting)
13. S Sathish Kumar (Weightlifting)
14. Bajrang (Wrestling)
15. Babita Kumari (Wrestling)
16. Yumnam Sanathoi Devi (Wushu)
17. Sharath M Gayakwad (Para-Swimming)

**17. 2015 Gujar Mal Modi award** - Prof. Mustansir Barma won the prestigious Gujar Mal Modi Award for Innovative Science and Technology for the year 2015.

**18. PATWA 2015 award** - Goa Tourism Minister Parulekar conferred with PATWA 2015 award.

**19. 2015 Ramanujan award - Mathematician Dr.**

**Amalendu Krishna** bags 2015 Ramanujan Prize for his contributions in the area of algebraic K-theory, algebraic cycles.

**20. Bharat Bharti literary award 2014** - Hindi litterateur Kashinath Singh chosen for the Uttar Pradesh's highest literary award Bharat Bharti for the year 2014

**21. Pritiman Sarkar Award 2014-15** – The Film Society of Jodhpur conferred with the award for the consequent fourth time for being the best film society in Northern Region in raising awareness and film appreciation.

**22. Golden Peacock environment management award** - Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh has been awarded Golden Peacock environment management award for its achievements and initiatives in the field of environment.

**23. Moorti Devi Award 2014** - Veteran Writer Vishwanath Tripathi selected for the 28th Moorti Devi Award for the year 2014 for his book Vyomkesh Darvesh. Vyomkesh Darvesh is a lifetime story of Acharya Hazari Prasad Dwivedi.

**24. G D Birla Award 2014** - Sanjeev Galande selected for G D Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2014. The name was announced by the K K Birla Foundation and he is the 24th recipient of the award.

**25. UN Public Service Award 2015** - The district administration of Nadia, West Bengal conferred with the United Nations Public Service Award 2015 for eliminating open defecation in the district.

**26.** Renowned carnatic vocalist Sanjay Subrahmanyam selected for the Sangitha Kalanidhi award of the Madras Music Academy.

**27.** 10th Navlekhan Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith was awarded to Hindi writers Babusha Kohli and Upasana. They were awarded for poem Prem Gilhari Dil Akhrot and novel Ek Zindagi Ek Ek Script Bhar respectively.

**28. Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2014** - Veteran actor Shashi Kapoor conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2014. He is the 46th recipient of the award.

**29. Saraswati Samman 2014** - Former Union Minister and veteran Congress leader Veerappa Moily conferred with Saraswati Samman for 2014 for his Kannada poem “**Ramayana Mahanveshanam**”.

**30. Yash Bharti Samman 2015** conferred on Vinod Mehta (eminent journalist and writer), an award given by Uttar Pradesh government.

**31. DSC Prize for 2015** - Indian - American author Jhumpa Lahiri won DSC Prize for Literature for her book, **The Lowland**.

**32. Vyas Samman 2014** - Veteran Hindi scholar and writer Dr Kamal Kishore Goyanka has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman for the year 2014. He was chosen for his research work ‘Premchand Kee Kahaniyo Kaa Kaal kramanusar’

**Note:** Vyas Sammanis awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation in recognition of the Hindi literary work published in past 10 years.

## International

### Nobel Prize 2015 –

#### 1. The Nobel Prize in Physics 2015 –

- Winner - Takaaki Kajita & Arthur B. McDonald
- Field of the discovery: For the discovery of neutrino oscillations, shows that neutrinos have mass.
- Note: Takaaki Kajita is from Japan and Arthur B. McDonald is from Canada.

#### 2. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2015

- Winner - Tomas Lindahl, Paul Modrich & Aziz Sancar
- Field of the discovery: For mechanistic studies of DNA repair.
- Note: Tomas Lindahl is from Sweden, Paul Modrich is from United States and Aziz Sancar is from Turkey.

#### 3. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015

- Winner - William C. Campbell & Satoshi Ōmura
- The other half was shared by Youyou Tu for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria Youyou Tu is from China.
- Field of the discovery: For their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites.
- Note: William C. Campbell is from Ireland and Satoshi Ōmura is a Japanese.

#### 4. The Nobel Prize in Literature 2015

- Winner - Svetlana Alexievich
  - Field of the discovery: For her polyphonic writings, a monument to suffering and courage in our time
- Note: Svetlana Alexievich is from Belarus.

#### 5. The Nobel Peace Prize 2015

- Winner: National Dialogue Quartet
- Field of the discovery: For its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011.

#### 6. The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2015

- Winner: Angus Deaton
- Field of the discovery: For his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare
- **Note:** Angus Deaton is from United Kingdom.

1. **United Nations Champions of the Earth Award 2015** - Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conferred with the award.

2. **2015 Humanitarian of the Year Award** - Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi

**Note:** In 2014, this award was conferred on UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

3. **2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction** - Marlon James  
**Note:** He won the 2015 Man Booker Prize for Fiction for his novel A Brief History of Seven Killings. With this, James became the first Jamaican author to win the prize in its 47-years of history.

4. **Champions of Change Award** - Indian-American Swetha Prabakaran chosen for Champions of Change Award in US.

5. **Man Booker Prize 2015** - British-Indian author Sunjeev Sahota shortlisted for the prestigious Man Booker Prize 2015.

**Note:** Sahota's novel **The Year of the Runaways**, his second novel, centres around the lives of 13 Indian men who live in a house in Sheffield, each in desperate search of a new life.

6. **India won the UNESCO prize Award of Excellence 2015** for the conserving the **Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple of Kerala**. The award was given in the category of UNESCO Asia Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

7. **2015 Stockholm Water Prize** - The Waterman of India **Rajendra Singh** was conferred with the 2015 Stockholm Water Prize.

8. **Australian of the Day** - An Indian-origin driver in Australia **Tejinder Pal Singh** named as Australian of the Day by Commonwealth Bank of Australia for feeding the homeless in Darwin for the past three years.

9. **Three Indians named Fellows of American Society for Metals for 2015** - Pradeep Goyal, Vivekanand Kain, and Gankidi Madhusudhan Reddy

10. Acclaimed writer Jhumpa Lahiri awarded with 2014 National Humanities Medal by White House

11. Bollywood actor **Anupam Kher** conferred with the **Honoured Guest of Texas award** for his contribution to the cinema and the world of art.

12. National Geographic Society (NGS) was selected for the UNEP Champions of the Earth award in the Science and Innovation category.

13. **Natura Brasil** selected for the 2015 UNEP Champions of the Earth award in the entrepreneurial vision category.

14. Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) of South Africa selected for the 2015 UNEP Champions of the Earth award in the inspiration and action category.

15. **Presidential Medal for promoting peace** - Tibetan Prime Minister **Lobsang Sangay** was awarded with

the prestigious Presidential Medal by Salisbury University in Maryland, US for promoting peace and understanding.

**16. 2015 PEN Pinter Prize** - Saudi blogger and activist Raif Badawi and British poet and critic James Fenton awarded with the 2015 PEN Pinter Prize.

**17. Ratan Tata honoured by UK city of Coventry.**

**Note:** The city of Coventry honoured Ratan Tata, chairman Emeritus of Tata sons, with its highest award in recognition of his contributions to the West Midlands region of central England.

**18. Nualgi, an Indian company** with entirely Indian technology in the field of nano biotechnology, won the **Popular Choice Awards at the Climate CoLab** of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge.

**Note:** With this, Nualgi became the first Indian company to win the annual MIT contest.

**19. 2015 MacArthur Fellow - Kartik Chandran**, an Indian-American associate professor of earth and environmental engineering at Columbia Engineering, was named a 2015 MacArthur Fellow.

**20. Pride of Britain Award** - Indo-British van driver Dee Patel honoured with Pride of Britain Award.

**Note:** Patel had risked his life to save others.

**21. 2015 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize** - Mathematician Jacob Tsimmerman of the University of Toronto, Canada conferred with the award.

**22. 2015 Nansen Refugee Award** - Afghan refugee teacher Aqeela Asifi awarded with the 2015 Nansen Refugee Award by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Asifi dedicated her life to bring education to refugee girls in Pakistan.

**23. Ramon Magsaysay Awardees 2015** - Two Indians among the 5 awardees conferred with the so-called Asia's Nobel Prize.

**List of Awardees -**

- ✓ **Sanjiv Chaturvedi, India** - He was awarded for investigating corruption in public office.
- ✓ **Anshu Gupta, India** - He was recognized for his creative vision in transforming the culture of giving in India. He founded **Goonj** in 1999, which is a non-governmental organisation based in Delhi.
- ✓ **Kommaly Chanthavong, Laos**: She was recognized for her fearless, indomitable spirit to revive and develop the ancient Laotian art of silk weaving, creating livelihoods for thousands of poor.
- ✓ **Ligaya Fernando-Amilbangsa, the Philippines**: She was recognized for her single-minded crusade in preserving the endangered artistic heritage of southern Philippines.
- ✓ **Kyaw Thu, Myanmar**: He was recognized for his generous compassion in addressing the fundamental needs of both the living and the dead in Myanmar.

**24. James Tait Black award 2015** - Bangladesh novelist **Zia Haider Rahman** won the James Tait Black award 2015 for his debut novel **In the Light of What We Know**.

**Note:** James Tait Black award is an annual literary award bestowed for literature written in the English language in UK and is the oldest literary award of UK.

**25. Peter Mackler Award 2015** - Syrian woman journalist Zaina Erhaim won the esteemed 2015 Peter Mackler Award for Courageous and Ethical Journalism..

**26. Poland's Solidarity Prize 2015** - Zhanna Nemtsova awarded with Poland's Solidarity Prize 2015.

**Note:** (i) She received the award for championing democracy and human rights.

(ii) She is the daughter of slain Russian politician Boris Nemtsov.

**27. Champions of Change** - Indian American woman Sunita Viswanath honoured as Champions of Change by the White House of United States (US)

**Note:** She was selected for her work to encourage Hindus to take care of the environment.

**28. Grand Prix World Press Cartoon 2014 Award** - Telugu cartoonist Pamarthy Shankar won the Grand Prix World Press Cartoon 2014 Award for sketching Nelson Mandela.

**Note:** He is a cartoonist working with the prominent Telugu Daily newspaper Sakshi.

**29. Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize 2015** - Historian Ramachandra Guha chosen for the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize 2015 in the Academic Category.

**Note:** (i) He is the author of book titled - **India After Gandhi**.

(ii) The Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize, established in 1990 by the Japanese city of Fukuoka, recognises outstanding achievements by individuals or groups in preserving and creating the unique and diverse cultures of Asia.

**30. PATA award 2015** - Kerala Tourism's Muziris Heritage Project (MHP) bagged the 2015 Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) award in the 'Heritage & Culture' category.

**Note:** The Muziris Heritage Site (MHS) is designed to involve and integrate the local community in all intended developmental initiatives. It stretches across from the municipality of North Paravur in Ernakulam district to that of Kodungalloor in Thrissur district.

**31. Bangladesh Liberation War award:** Former Prime Minister of India, Atal Behari Vajpayee has been selected for Bangladesh Liberation War award.

**32. Noted artist Sayed Haider Raza** was conferred with highest French Civilian Award **Commandeur de la Legion d'Honneur** (the Legion of Honour).

**Note:** Raza was bestowed with this award for his peerless achievements in transcending all boundaries, forging ties between France and India and for continuing artistic quest straddling nations, religions, cultures and philosophies.

33. **World Food Prize 2015** to be conferred on Sir Fazle Hasan Abed of Bangladesh.
  - Sir Abed has been recognized for his decades of service to human development and through building Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) that operates in 10 countries around the world.
34. **Buddha In A Traffic Jam** film has won the best original screenplay in a Foreign Language award at the Madrid International Film Festival.  
**Note:** The film was directed by **Vivek Agnihotri**.
35. **Make in India initiative of DIPP** won Frost and Sullivan's 2015 Economic Development Innovation Award.
36. **Darshan Jain**, an Indian-American teacher named for **US Presidential Award** for Excellence in Mathematics and Science.
37. **GCHERA World Agriculture Prize 2015** - Indian American Professor Emeritus R. Paul Singh named for the GCHERA World Agriculture Prize 2015. GCHERA stands for Global Confederation for Higher Education Associations for Agriculture and Life Sciences.
38. Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar conferred with the Columbia's highest civilian award Orden de la Democracia Simon Bolivar en el grado de cruz Caballero (Order of the Democracy Simon Bolivar) by Columbia.
39. **2015 Space Pioneer Award** - ISRO presented with 2015 Space Pioneer Award for Mars Orbiter Mission.
40. **Japan's highest civilian award** - Japan's highest civilian award conferred on the eminent scientist **C N R Rao**, for his outstanding contributions to science and Indo-Japanese science cooperation.
41. **RedInk Lifetime Achievement Award** - Prannoy Roy, the executive co-chairman of NDTV, was conferred with the RedInk Award for lifetime achievement.
42. **Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2015** - Syrian journalist and rights activist Mazen Darwish was conferred with UNESCO-Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2015.
43. **Man Booker International Prize 2015** - Visionary" Hungarian writer **Laszlo Krasznahorkai** has been conferred with the sixth Man Booker International Prize.

## Schemes/ Policy launched by State/ Union Govt. of India

1. **Green Indian Mission (GIM) Plans Approved for 4 States** - National Mission for a Green India (GIM) falling under the Environment Ministry has approved annual plans for **Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Jharkhand**.  
**Note:** GIM, which is one of the eight Missions outlined under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), acknowledges the influence forests have on environmental amelioration through climate change mitigation, food security, water security, biodiversity conservation and livelihood security of forest-dependent communities.
2. **"SEHAT" scheme** - The Union government launched a telemedicine initiative '**Sehat**' in collaboration with **Apollo Hospitals** to provide healthcare facilities in rural areas. The initiative was launched by Union Communication and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad at a function in New Delhi.
3. **Rural Development Minister launches 'SAMANVAY' for Gram Panchayats**  
**Key Points -**
  - ✓ Rural Development Minister Chaudhary Birender Singh has launched SAMANVAY, a compilation of all schemes of both Central and State governments for Gram Panchayats.
  - ✓ The purpose behind bringing out SAMANVAY is to help MPs in utilising relevant schemes in the planning and implementation of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.
  - ✓ More than 1800 state schemes from across all states have been documented in SAMANVAY.
4. **PAHAL scheme enters into Guinness Book of world records -**  
**Key Points -**
  - ✓ Union Government's ambitious Pratyaksha Hastaantarit Laabh (PAHAL) scheme has been acknowledged as the world's largest cash transfer program (households) by the Guinness Book of World Records.
  - ✓ The scheme was formally launched as Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for LPG subsidy in 2013 in 291 districts under the aegis of Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
  - ✓ It was modified and christened as PaHal in November 2014 and was launched in 54 districts. Later it was extended nationwide on 1 January 2015.
  - ✓ Under the scheme, subsidized liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders are sold at market rates and consumers are entitled to receive LPG subsidy directly into their bank accounts.



## 5. 'Housing For All': Centre identifies 305 cities, towns -

### Key points -

- ✓ The housing ministry has identified **305 cities** and towns **across 9 states** to start building houses for the poor in urban areas.
- ✓ The government has set the target to provide houses to two crore families belonging to the economically weaker section (EWS) in urban **areas by 2022**.

## 6. Union Government releases Rs 2,000 crore for Employees' Pension Scheme

### Key points -

- ✓ Union Government has released 2,000 crore rupees to Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 as its contribution for the year 2015-16.
- ✓ This contribution is in addition to the 250 crore rupees contributed by the government as grant-in-aid in the EPS in order to provide minimum pension of 1,000 rupees to pensioners under the scheme.

## 7. e-Pragati' to pave way for Digital Andhra Pradesh -

### Key points -

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh State government is now rechristening the AP State Enterprise Architecture (APSEA) as 'e-Pragati'.
- ✓ APSEA is a comprehensive architecture to leverage the latest advances in e-governance tools.
- ✓ e-Pragati extends to 33 secretariat departments and over 300 government agencies in AP.
- ✓ It seeks to provide a bouquet of 745 services in the government to customer (G2C), government to business (G2B), government to enterprise (G2E) and government to government (G2G) areas.

## 8. Union Government has launched the **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** for the welfare of people affected by mining related operations.

## 9. Union Cabinet approves **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission** to drive economic, social and infrastructure development in rural areas.

**Note:** In this regard, Union Government has earmarked an outlay of Rs. 5142.08 crores rupees for the mission to develop **300 clusters** over next three years across the country.

## 10. Union Government launches 2nd phase of Mission Indradhanush

### Key points -

- ✓ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the second phase of Mission Indradhanush to achieve full immunization of children below two years.
- ✓ In the second phase, the week-long programme will be implemented in **352 districts of the country**.
- ✓ Mission Indradhanush depicts 7 colours of the rainbow which aims to cover all those children **by 2020** who are either unvaccinated or are partially vaccinated against 7 vaccine preventable diseases.
- ✓ These **7 diseases are Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Polio, Tuberculosis, Measles and Hepatitis B**.
- ✓ WHO (World Health Organisation), UNICEF, Rotary International and others are donor partners for Mission Indradhanush.

**Note:** The mission was launched in December 2014 on the occasion of National Good Governance Day. The first phase drive was started in April 2015 in 201 districts covering 45 lakh children and immunising 20 lakh children.

## 11. PM Narendra Modi launches IPDS in Varanasi to ensure 24×7 power supply to every house

### Key points -

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched National Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to provide 24×7 power supply to every house.
- ✓ To start the scheme in Varanasi, PM laid foundation stone of two power substations and Union Government will provide 572 crore rupees to implement it.
- ✓ Apart from launching IPDS, PM also laid the foundation stone of seven other developmental projects in Varanasi. He also formally inaugurated the biggest Trauma centre of the country in Banaras Hindu University.

## 12. Union Government has announced to **extend e-Tourist Visa Scheme to 37 more countries** in order to attract maximum foreign tourists in the country.

**13. Union Government launches SAHAJ scheme for online release of new LPG connections**

- ✓ Union Government has launched SAHAJ scheme for online release of new LPG connections for the consumers as parts of its consumer friendly initiative.
- ✓ It was launched by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at a function held in New Delhi.

**14. Introduction of Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme****Key points –**

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved introduction of Gold Monetization Schemes (GMS) in a bid to lure away Indians from buying physical gold.
- ✓ The approved schemes are Gold Deposit Scheme (GDS) and the Gold Metal Loan (GML) Scheme which were announced by Government in 2015-16 budget.
- ✓ GMS would benefit the Indian gems and jewellery sector which is a major contributor to country's exports by accounting 12 per cent of total exports. It would enable depositors to earn interest on their on their gold accounts.
- ✓ Under this scheme, bonds will be issued with an interest rate decided by Union Government and calculated on value at the time of investment.

**15. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Housing for All by 2022 scheme, also known as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in New Delhi. The 'Housing for All' scheme will replace all previous government housing schemes such as the Rajiv Awas Yojana.**

Two other schemes were also launched as complementary to the affordable housing scheme, a scheme for development of **Smart Cities** across the country and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (**AMRUT**) that allows for urban renewal and upgradation of infrastructure in the major urban tracts of the country.

**I. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) –** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched AMRUT mission aimed at transforming **500 cities and towns** into efficient urban living spaces, with special focus on a healthy and green environment for children. The Cabinet approved **Rs 50,000 crore** for this mission which is to be spent over the next five years.

**Note:** **Rajasthan has become the first state in the country to submit State Annual** Action Plan under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

**II. Smart Cities Mission -** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Smart Cities Mission, focus on developing **100 select Smart cities** by focusing on optimising efficiencies in urban services and infrastructure management, with proactive use of technology and people participation. The Cabinet approved of **Rs 48,000 crore** outlay to be spent on the project over the next five years.

**16. Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana - Union Government launched Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DUGJY) in Patna, Bihar. The flagship scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with an aim to provide 24x7 uninterrupted electricity supply to each rural household across the country by 2022.****Key points –**

- (i)** This scheme replaces **Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)**, which was launched by previous UPA government led by then PM Manmohan Singh.
- (ii)** The scheme is one of the flagship programmes of the Power Ministry.
- (iii)** It also seeks to strengthen Micro grid and off grid distribution network of rural electrification.

**17. HRIDAY - Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana – Union Ministry of Urban Development launched the National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) for 12 cities in the country from Amritsar, Punjab. The scheme was launched by Union Minister of Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting Arun Jaitley.****Key points -**

- (i)** The scheme seeks to preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the country in the 12 selected cities in the country.

(ii) With a duration of 27 months (completing in March 2017) and a total outlay of INR 500 Crores, the Scheme is set to be implemented in 12 identified Cities namely, Ajmer, Amaravati, (Andhra Pradesh), Amritsar, Badami, Dwarka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.

**18. Skill India' campaign 2015** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Skill India campaign at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on first ever **World Youth Skills Day on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015**.

**Key points -**

- (i) The campaign aims to converge and monitor skill development schemes across the country as well as provide subsidized loans to students for vocational training.
- (ii) A '**Skill Loan**' has been launched, where loans from **5,000 to 1.5 lakh rupees** will be available to over 34 lakh youth, over the next five years.

**19. Mobile app "Disha" launched in Bihar** - Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched a new mobile app named Disha to promote digital literacy in Bihar.

**Key points -**

- (i) The app aims to help people learn about computers and Internet through self-learning modules. The app also aims to offer digital literacy to tribal and Dalit women in the state.
- (ii) The Ministry also launched Disha handbook that has pictographic lessons on computers operations. The Disha handbook is framed by the Common Service Centres (CSCs) for the purpose of digital literacy.

**20. Grama Jyothi scheme launched in Telangana** - Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhara Reddy launched a flagship programme Grama Jyothi across the state.

**Key points -**

- (i) The scheme is aimed at comprehensive development of rural areas allowing planning and execution of works by villages themselves.
- (ii) The Grama Jyothi programme aims to empower gram panchayats. The programme introduces a participatory approach in preparing village development plans involving the panchayats, self help groups, people and all interested in the holistic development of the village.

**21. RISHTA project launched in Himachal Pradesh** - Himachal Pradesh Government launched the **Rajiv Gandhi Illuminating Scheme for Hill Town Advancement (RISHTA)** project, an efficient smart LED based street lighting project. With this, Himachal Pradesh **became the first state in North India to do so**.

**Key points -**

- (i) The scheme is also known as **Centralized Control and Monitoring System (CCMS) Smart Street Lighting Scheme** for Urban Local bodies which implements LED based street lighting project.

**22. Namami Gange Program** - Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the flagship Namami Gange Program.

**Key points -**

- (i) The program integrates the efforts to clean and protect the River Ganga in a comprehensive manner by involving differed States and grassroots level institutions.
- (ii) It has a budgetary outlay of **20000 crore rupees** for 2015-20. It will be implemented National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) with the help of State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).

**23. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** - Agriculture Irrigation Scheme.

**Key points:**

- ✓ Scheme aims at providing irrigation facilities to every village in the country by converging ongoing irrigation schemes implemented by various ministries.
- ✓ Budgetary allocation: 1,000 crore rupees for fiscal year 2015-16.
- ✓ Funding Pattern: Centre- States will be 75: 25 per cent. In case of north-eastern region and hilly states it will be 90:10.

**2. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:** It is a small deposit scheme for the girl child.

**Key points of the scheme -**

- ✓ In one family, a maximum of two accounts can be opened for two girl children. The account can be transferred anywhere in India from one Post office/Bank to another.

- ✓ **Age Limit:** The upper age limit of the girl child for opening **this account is 10 years**. The govt. has given a relaxation of one year in the upper age limit for those opening accounts till December 1, 2015.
- ✓ **Documents required** - 1. Birth Certificate of the girl child. 2. Address proof. 3. Identity proof.
- ✓ **Minimum & Maximum deposit:** The minimum deposit under **the scheme is Rs. 1000/-**. The maximum deposit is Rs. **1.5 lakhs**. There is no limit on the number of investments one can make in an account either in a month or in a year.
- ✓ **Interest rate:** The government will announce the interest rate of the scheme every year. However, the government of India has increased the rate of interest from 9.1% (2014-15) to 9.2% (2015-16) for this financial year.
- ✓ **Maturity period:** The maturity period of the **scheme is 21 years** from the date of account opening, though deposits need to be made only for the first 14 years.
- ✓ The minimum lock-in period under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is **11 years**.

#### 24. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):

- ✓ The scheme aims to impart skill training to youth with focus on first time entrants to the labour market and class 10 and class 12 drop outs.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). I
- ✓ It will cover 24 lakh persons and skill training would be based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards

#### 25. Bhagyashree scheme: It is girl child scheme was launched in Maharashtra. Bollywood actress Bhagyashree is the brand ambassador of the scheme.

##### **Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ The state government will deposit an amount of 21200 rupees in bank for a girl child born in a Below the Poverty Line (BPL) family.
- ✓ The scheme aims at providing one 1 lakh rupees on maturity after the girl completes 18 years of age.
- ✓ The scheme would be linked to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme of Union Government.

#### 26. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA): Former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) in New Delhi. The abhiyan aims to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for Science and Mathematics in school children. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan is a concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. RAA is an effort to take forward the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India, 'Make in India' and 'Teach in India'.

#### 27. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY): It is a low premium insurance scheme which will link with the Pradhan Mantri Jhan Dhan Yojna.

##### **Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ **Eligibility:** Minimum **18 years and maximum 50 years** and have bank account are eligible for the scheme. If the account is opened before attaining the age of 50 years, the life cover would remain intact up to the age of 55 years, if premium is paid regularly.
- ✓ Premium - **Rs.330 per year** i.e. less than Rs.1 per day.
- ✓ **Risk coverage - Rs.2 Lakh** in case of death for any reason.
- ✓ The premium paid will be tax-free under section 80C and also the proceeds amount will get tax-exemption u/s 10(10D).

#### 28. Atal Pension Yojana (APY): It is a scheme mainly for workers in unorganised sector. The scheme will be administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and replace the previous government's Swavalamban Yojana NPS Lite.

##### **Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ The subscribers who will joined the scheme would receive the fixed pension of Rs. 1000 per month, Rs. 2000 per month, Rs. 3000 per month, Rs. 4000 per month, Rs. 5000 per month, at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions.
- ✓ **Age limit:** minimum **18 years** and maximum age **is 40 years**.
- ✓ A subscriber can contribute for minimum **period of 20 years** or more and pension payment will start at the age of 60 years.
- ✓ The government of India has decided to co-contribute 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber account, for a period of 5 years, i.e., from 2015-16 to 2019-20, who join the NPS before 31st December, 2015 and who are not income tax payers.



**29. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** It is an insurance scheme which covers death or disablement of the policyholder caused due to accident or accidental injuries.

**Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ **Age limit:** Minimum **18 yrs** and maximum **70 years**.
- ✓ The scheme will be a one year cover, renewable from year to year and would be administered through the Public Sector General Insurance Companies in collaboration with Banks.
- ✓ **Risk coverage:** **Rs. 2 Lakh** and for partial disability cover of Rs. 1 Lakh.
- ✓ **Premium:** **Rs.12 per annum**. The premium will be directly auto-debited by the bank from the subscribers' account.

**30. Kisan Vikas Patra** – Saving scheme relaunched by government of India.

**Key points –**

- (i) Money will be doubles in **8 years 4 months (100 months)**. Thus the applicable interest rate is **8.7%**
- (ii) KVP will be available in denominations of **Rs.1,000, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, and Rs. 50,000**.
- (iii) There will be **no upper ceiling** on investment.
- (iv) Minimum lock-in period is 2 years and 6 months.
- (v) KVP can be encashed in eight equal monthly installments after the lock-in period.
- (vi) No KYC norms would be applicable at the time of purchase of KVP, PAN details will not be required.

**31. Public Provident Fund (PPF) – Saving scheme.**

**Key points –**

- (i) An individual can open account with **Rs. 100/-** but has to deposit **minimum of Rs. 500/-** in a financial year and **maximum Rs.1.5 lakh**.
- (ii) Maturity period is **15 years** but the same can be extended within one year of maturity for further 5 years and so on.
- (iii) Interest rates - **8.70% per annum** (compounded yearly).
- (iv) Account can be opened by cash/cheque and In case of cheque, the date of realization of cheque in Govt. account shall be date of opening of account.

**32. Nai Manzil Scheme** - Dr. Najma Heptulla, the Union Minister for Minority Affairs launched a new Central Sector Scheme – Nai Manzil for minority youth in Patna on August 8, 2015.

**Key points –**

- (i) The scheme aims at providing educational intervention by giving the bridge courses to the trainees and getting them Certificates for Class XII and X from distance medium educational system and at the same time also provide them trade basis skill training in 4 courses : Manufacturing, Engineering, Services, Soft skills.
- (ii) The scheme is intended to cover people in **between 17 to 35 age** group from all minority communities as well as Madrasa students.

**Note: "Nai Roshni"** - The Scheme for Leadership Development of Minority Women.

## Sports News

### CEAT CRICKET Award 2015:

- ✓ International Cricketer of the Year - Kumar Sangakkara
- ✓ Lifetime Achievement Award : Kapil Dev
- ✓ International Indian Cricketer of the year - Ajinkya Rahane

## Cricket News

### ICC World Cup Cricket Venues:

ODI	Test	T20
1. Australia & New Zealand – 2015	1. England - 2017	1. India -2016
2. England – 2019	2. India – 2021	2. Australia – 2020
3. India – 2023		

**Cricket news-**

1. **Bangladesh seal 2017 ICC Champions Trophy** berth.  
Note: Bangladesh sealed a berth in ICC Champions Trophy for the first time since 2006.
2. Veteran Test cricketer of West Indies Shivnarine Chanderpaul honoured with the Icon Award by the Indo-Caribbean Alliance.
3. **AB de Villiers named brand ambassador of MRF** - Tyre manufacturing giant MRF Limited named South African batsman AB de Villiers as its brand ambassador.
4. Indian **cricketer Virender Shewag** retired from all forms of international Cricket and Indian Premier League (IPL).
5. **Vivo assigned the Title Sponsorship of Indian Premier League** - Board for Cricket Control in India (BCCI) assigned title sponsorship of Indian Premier League (IPL) to Brazilian mobile company M/S Vivo.  
**Note:** Vivo was assigned the sponsorship after PepsiCo suddenly pulled out from a five-year deal that was supposed to end in 2017.
6. Zaheer Khan, retired from all forms of international and first-class Cricket.
7. **Richie Richardson appointed** to Elite Panel of ICC Match Referees. He replaces Sri Lanka's Roshan Mahanama.
8. Australian all-rounder **Shane Watson** announced his retirement from Test cricket.
9. Marvan Atapattu resigned as Head Coach of Sri Lanka Cricket team.
10. **Kolkata's Eden Gardens to host final of ICC World Twenty20.** The World Twenty20 will be hosted by India from the 11 March to 3 April 2016.
11. Former Sri Lankan cricket captain and batsman Kumar Sangakkara from International Cricket.
12. **Australian captain Michael Clarke announced retirement** from International Cricket. Steven Smith was named the new captain of Australian Cricket team.
13. IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings, Rajasthan Royals suspended for two years by Justice Lodha panel
14. BCCI suspended Mumbai Ranji player Hiken Shah for corruption.
15. South Africa debutant Kagiso Rabada became only the second cricketer in the history of One Day International (ODI) cricket to claim a hat-trick on ODI debut.
16. Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was voted as the Best Test Player of the 21st century in an online poll titled Top-100 Test players' list since 2000. The result of poll conducted by Cricket Australia's website, cricket.com.au.
17. Veteran West Indies fast bowler Sir Wesley Winfield Hall has been inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He becomes 80th cricketer to be inducted in the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame and 18th from West Indies.
18. Rahul Dravid named as the coach of India A team and Indian U 19 cricket team.
19. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) co-owner Shah Rukh Khan acquired Caribbean Premier League (CPL) T20 team Trinidad & Tobago (T&T).
20. Indian off-spin cricketer Harbhajan Singh became the ninth all-time highest Test wicket-taker by claiming 416 wickets in 102 matches.
21. India's legendary batsman Sachin Tendulkar has been voted the 'Best Test player' of the 21st century in an online poll conducted by Cricket Australia's website for the list of the 100 best Test players since 2000.
22. Ranji Trophy 2015 - Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu by an innings and 217 runs and lifted Ranji Trophy title 8<sup>th</sup> time.
23. AB De Villiers conferred with South Africa Cricketer of the Year Award for 2015.
24. Sundaram Ravi inducted into Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires for 2015-16.
25. England batsman Jonathan Trott has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect after a disappointing tour of the West Indies.
26. Australia wicketkeeper, Brad Haddin announced retirement from One Day International (ODI) cricket.
27. Cricket legends Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, VVS Laxman inducted into BCCI's high-powered advisory panel to guide the board in all matters related to the game.
28. **Syed Mushtaq Ali T-20 tournament 2015-** Gujarat beat Punjab by 2 wickets and won the Syed Mushtaq Ali T-20 cricket tournament.

**Football News**

FIFA (Football) World Cup Venue	FIFA U – 17 World Cup Venues
1. Russia – 2018	1. Chile - 2015
2. Qatar - 2022	2. India – 2017

- 1. Cristiano Ronaldo wins a record 4th Golden Boot** - Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo won his fourth Golden Boot for scoring the most number of goals in domestic European leagues.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) appointed the former India Football captain Baichung Bhutia as the advisor for overall issues of the game and the Federation.
- 3. (SAFF) under-16 title** - Bangladesh Under-16 team won their first-ever South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) under-16 title. In the title clash the hosts defeated defending champions India 4-2 in penalties.
- August Edition of FIFA World Rankings released - Argentina team on the top followed by Belgium at No 2 and the World Cup winner Germany at No 3 position. India with 161 points retained its 156th position in FIFA World rankings.
- 2015 Women's Fifa World Cup** - USA defeated Japan to win Women's FIFA World Cup for the third time.
- 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup - Serbia defeated by Brazil 2-1 to win the title.
- The Manchester United became the World's most valuable brand in the World football with 1.2 billion US dollars. Also, it became the first club to pass the 1 billion US dollar mark.
- FC Barcelona won the 2015 Champions League title by defeating Juventus FC.
- Sunil Chhetri has become the first Indian footballer to score 50 international goals. He achieved this feat in his 2018 World Cup qualifying match between India and Guam. At present, he is the captain of the Indian Football team.
- 10. BRICS Under - 17 football tournament** to be held in India in 2016. BRICS nation include - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Subrata Paul has been recommended for the prestigious Arjuna Awards by the All India Football Federation.
- Santosh Trophy 2015 - Services defeated Punjab by 5-4 in the final to win the title. Services have now won the title for the fourth time.

### Hockey News –

#### Hockey World Cup venue

Venue	Year
1. India (Men's)	2018
2. England (Women's)	2018

- 1. Sultan of Johor Cup 2015** - Great Britain defeated Indian junior men's hockey team and captured Sultan of Johor Cup (SOJC).
- Punjab National Bank won Beighton Cup of Hockey**, defeated Indian Oil Corporation in the final.
- Senior India hockey player Gurbaj Singh suspended for 9 months for indulging in groupism and creating disharmony within the team.
- Hockey India appointed Roelant Oltmans as coach of Men's national team

### Tennis News

- 2015 Vietnam Open Tennis Trophy** - India's tennis player Saketh Myneni won the Vietnam Open tennis trophy by defeating Australia's Jordan Thompson 7-5 6-3.
- 2015 Shanghai Rolex Masters tennis title** – Novak Djokovic defeated Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to clinch the trophy.

#### Tournament Won by Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis

- ✓ **Wuhan Tennis Open 2015** - Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis defeated Romanian team of Irina-Camelia Begu and Monica Niculescu.
  - ✓ **Ghangzhou Open Women's Doubles title** - Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis defeated the Chinese pair of Xu Shilin and You Xiaodi
- Virat Kohli, the test cricket captain of India, became the co-owner of the UAE Royals. The team will be led by tennis ace Roger Federer.
  - Roger Federer won Cincinnati Masters Men's Singles tennis title for record seventh time by defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia.

5. Serena Williams won Cincinnati Masters Women's Singles title for second time by defeating the third seeded Simona Halep of Romania.
6. Andy Murray won the Rogers Cup Masters tournament in Montreal, Canada. He defeated world number one Novak Djokovic. It was Murray's 11th Masters Title.
7. Sania Mirza, currently ranked world number one in women's doubles, became only the second tennis player to be recommended for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna. The first tennis player to be named for the top award was Leander Paes

US Open Title - 2015		
Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's single	Novak Djokovic	Roger Federer
Women's single	Flavia Pennetta	Roberta Vinci (Italy)
Women's double	Sania Mirza & Martina Hingis	Casey Dellacqua & Yaroslava Shvedova
Mixed doubles	Leander Paes & Martina Hingis	Bethanie Mattek-Sands & Sam Querrey

China Open - 2015		
Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's single	Novak Djokovic	Rafal Nadal
Women's single	Garbiñe Muguruza	Tímea Bacsinszky
Women's double	Sania Mirza & Martina Hingis	Hao-ching & Chan Yung-jan
Men's doubles	Vasek Pospisil & Jack Sock	Daniel Nestor & Édouard Roger-Vasselin

Wimbledon Title 2015		
Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's single	Novak Djokovic	Roger Federer
Women's single	Serena Williams	Garbine Muguruza (Spain)
Women's double	Sania Mirza & Martina Hingis	Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina
Mixed doubles	Leander Paes & Martina Hingis	Alexander Peya and Timea Babos

**Note:**

- ✓ Serena Williams won the Sixth Wimbledon (women's singles) title and total 21 Grand Slam titles.
- ✓ Sania Mirza won first-ever women's doubles Grand Slam title, although she has won three mixed doubles titles at the majors. With this title, Sania also became the first Indian women to win a Wimbledon title.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic won his third Wimbledon (men's singles) title and total 9<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam titles.

**Commonwealth Games (CWG)**

1. CWG - 2022 – Durban, South Africa.
2. CWG - 2018 – Gold Coast, Australia.
3. CWG 2014 held in Glasgow, Scotland

**Olympics Games Venue**

- ✓ **Summer Olympics Games**
  - (i) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 2016
  - (ii) Tokyo, Japan – 2020
- ✓ **Winter Olympics Games**
  - (i) Pyeongchang, South Korea – 2018
  - (ii) Beijing, China – 2022



1. **2024 Summer Olympics** - International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced name of five cities namely Los Angeles, Hamburg, Paris, Rome and Budapest as candidates to host the 2024 Summer Olympics.
2. **Beijing chosen to host 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.**  
With this, Beijing became the first city to host both the Summer Olympics and Winter Olympics. It hosted Summer Olympics in 2008.

### Asian Games Venue –

- ✓ The 2018 Asian Games to be held in – **Jakarta, Indonesia**
- ✓ 2022 Asian Games to be held in - **Hangzhou City of China.**
- ✓ **Note:** Asian Games were held every 4 years. In 2014 Asian Games was held in Incheon, South Korea.

### Badminton News

1. **2015 Denmark Open** – Li Xuerui won the title by defeating PV Sindhu in the final.
2. **2015 Dutch Open Men's Singles badminton title** - Ajay Jayaram defeated Estonia's Raul Must to win the title.
3. India's ace shuttler Saina Nehwal became the first Indian to win silver in the World Badminton Championship.  
**Note:** She lost the women's singles summit clash to Spain's Carolina Marin 16-21, 19-21 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
4. Canada Open Badminton 2015 (Men's single)- Lee Chong Wei defeated Ng Ka Long Angus .
5. Canada Open Badminton 2015 (Women's single) - Michelle Li defeated Kaori Imabeppu.
6. Canada Open Badminton 2015 (Women's double) - Jwala Gutta & Ashwini Ponappa defeated Eefje Muskens and Selena Piek.
7. Carolina Marin became the first Spanish player to win the Wimbledon of badminton, All England Championship title. She defeated Saina Nehwal in the final.

### Formula 1 winner

1. Russian Grand Prix title 2015 - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes driver)
2. Japanese Grand Prix title 2015 - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes driver)
3. Singapore Grand Prix 2015 - Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari driver)
4. Italian Grand Prix 2015 - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes driver)
5. Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix 2015 - Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari driver)
6. Austrian Grand Prix 2015 - Nico Rosberg (Mercedes driver)
7. British Grand Prix 2015 - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes driver)
8. Spanish Grand Prix 2015 - Nico Rosberg (Mercedes driver)
9. Monaco Grand Prix 2015 - Nico Rosberg (Mercedes driver)
10. Bahrain Grand Prix 2015 - Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes driver)

### Other Sports News

1. **2015 FIDE World Chess Cup** - Russia's Sergey Karjakin defeated Peter Svidler by 6-4 in the final to win the title.
2. **2015 Commonwealth Youth Games** - Weightlifter Deepak Lather won Gold in the **62 kg category** of the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) being held in Apia, Samoa.
3. **U Mumba won the Pro Kabaddi League 2015** title by defeating Bengaluru Bulls.
4. **Indian boxer Vikas won** silver medal in 75 kg category at 2015 Asian Boxing Championships
5. **Anirban Lahiri** became the first Indian golfer to qualify for a Presidents Cup. He will be part of the International Team in the 2015 championship.
6. **Shweta Rathore became** first Indian female bodybuilder to win silver in Asian body building championship.

7. **Russia retained 2015 Women's European Volleyball Championship.** Russia defeated Netherlands in the final.
8. **Indian cyclist Deborah Herold** became first-ever Indian to win five medals at Taiwan Cup.  
**Note: (i)** She bagged one gold, three silver and one bronze medal at the 2015 Taiwan Cup held at the Hsin Chu Velodrome, Hsin-Chu city in Taiwan.  
**(ii)** With this, she became the first ever Indian cyclist to win in women's elite section.  
**(iii)** 20-year-old Deborah is a tribal girl from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
9. **Ranveer Singh Saini** (14 years) become the first Indian Golfer to win a Gold medal at the Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles.
10. **2015 FIBA Asian Basketball Championship** – China won the title by defeating Philippines in the final.
11. Mariko Kipchumba of Kenya won **2015 Beijing International Marathon**.
12. India Cements won the **Moin-ud Dowlah Gold Cup Tournament 2015-16** by defeating Hyderabad XI. This was the third title for the winning team.
13. American Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr announced retirement after defeating Andre Berto.
14. **Pankaj Advani** bags 13th World Snooker Championship.
15. 55th National Open Athletics Championship held in Kolkata.

16. **Narsingh Pancham Yadav** won bronze medal at the 2015 World Wrestling Championships held in Las Vegas, USA.
17. India will host the combined shotgun/rifle/pistol World Cup in 2017.
18. Aditi Chauhan, India's international football goalkeeper, became the country's first woman to play English league football.
19. Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt won the 100 meter title at the 2015 World Championships in Athletics held at Beijing in China.  
**Note:** With this win, Bolt joined the select league of Carl Lewis and Maurice Greene who won the title for three times.
20. International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially recognized '**Frisbee**' as an Olympic sport.
21. China won the 2015 Nongfu Spring Snooker's World Cup by defeating Scotland 4-1 in the final.
22. India defeated Sri Lanka to win 2015 South Asian Basketball Championship.
23. Veselin Topalov won the Norway Chess Tournament 2015.
24. Satnam Singh Bhamara became the first Indian basketball player to be drafted in the National Basketball Association (NBA) after being picked by Dallas Mavericks in New York.

### **Joint Military Exercise**

1. **Malabar Exercise 2015** – India, US & Japan.
2. **Mitra Shakti 2015** – India – Sri Lanka
3. **Hand in Hand** – India & China
4. **EKUMVERIN 2015** – India – Maldives
5. **AUSINDEX-15** – India – Australia (Bilateral Maritime Ex.)
6. **Indradhanush** – India – UK (Bilateral Air Ex.)
7. **Varuna Exercise 2015** - India - France Naval Exercise.
8. **Surya Kiran VIII** – Indo- Nepal joint military exercise.
9. **INDRA** - INDRA is a joint, bi-annual military exercise conducted by India and Russia.
10. **HADR Exercise** - Indian Navy conducted a large scale Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise in the Lakshadweep Islands (Karavati, Aggatti, Kalpeni and Androth).
11. **Shaheen (Eagle)-4** - China and its strategic partner Pakistan have launched a joint air exercise called **Shaheen (Eagle)-4** in China.

### **Science | Defence | News**

1. **India's 1st dedicated satellite for astronomy research ASTROSAT launched.** The satellite was launched from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C30). **PSLV-C30 is the tenth flight of PSLV in its 'XL' Configuration.**

#### **Characteristic features of ASTROSAT**

- ✓ ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory.
- ✓ The mission is capable of performing observations in Ultraviolet (UV), optical, low and high energy X-ray wavebands at the same time.
- ✓ The satellite is of about 1513 kg and was placed in a 650 km orbit inclined at an angle of 6 deg to the equator around the Earth.

- ✓ It carries four X-ray payloads, one UV telescope and a charge particle monitor.
- ✓ ASTROSAT's life span is five years.

2. **India's first Harbour Defence System commissioned in Kochi, Kerala.** Designed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
3. China has successfully launched a newly-developed smaller version of carrier rocket **Long March-6** as part of the country's space program.
4. India has gifted its former Indian Coast Guard (ICG) **Ship Varaha** to Sri Lanka.
5. **India launched Indonesia's second multi-spectral remote sensing satellite LAPAN A2/Orari.** The satellite launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
6. **50th anniversary of 1965 India-Pakistan war** was observed across the country on **28 August 2015**.
7. The country's prestigious DRDO Missile Complex in Hyderabad renamed as **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile**.
8. **DRDO inaugurated world's highest Research Centre in Ladakh** - The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) inaugurated an Extreme Altitude Research Centre at Chang La, Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir at 17600 feet above mean sea level. It is the world's highest terrestrial research and development centre.
9. **26th edition of the Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** between India and Indonesia held in Andaman Sea.
10. Pakistan and Russia have signed a landmark defence deal including the sale of **4 advance Mi-35 'Hind E' combat helicopters to Pakistan**
11. **INS Astradharani commissioned into Indian Navy** at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It is Indian Navy's first totally indigenously-designed and built Torpedo launch and recovery vessel (TRV).
12. Indian Air Force (IAF) on 8 October 2015 celebrated **its 83rd foundation day** at the Hindon Air Force Station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
13. INS Kochi, indigenously built largest warship, dedicated to the nation- It is the largest warship built so far in India weighing over 7500 tonnes.
14. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned two indigenously built ships **Apoorva and C-421** at the Naval Dock in Mumbai.
15. **INS Vajrakosh commissioned by Defence Ministry at Karwar** - Indian Naval Station (INS) Vajrakosh is the latest establishment of the Indian Navy.
16. An indigenously developed second generation anti-tank guided missile, **Amogha-I was successfully test fired**.
17. Reliance Defence has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Emirates Defence Industries Company (EDIC) in defence sector.
18. **Russian astronaut record-breaker Gennady Padalka returns to Earth** - Russian astronaut Gennady Padalka has returned to Earth with the record for having spent the most time in space.
19. **Indian Railways announced that it has developed a prototype of Hybrid Vacuum Toilet.** It is hybrid because the design is based on both vacuum toilets and biotoilets. It was installed in the **Delhi-Dibrugarh Rajdhani** train on trial basis.
20. **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed a poly-herbal medicine by the trade name of **Lukoskin** for the treatment of Leucoderma.
21. **Apache attack helicopters & Chinook heavy-lift choppers deal approved** - Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved the deal to buy 37 military helicopters from the United States (US). The deal is worth 3.1 billion US dollars.  
**Note:** The deal of 37 helicopters comprises of 22 Apache attack helicopters and 15 Chinook heavy-lift choppers from US defence contractor Boeing. These helicopters will replace the old Soviet-era aircraft.
22. **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-D6** successfully launched from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.  
GSLV-D6 inducted 2117 kg GSAT-6, an advanced communication satellite into a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The satellite is intended to provide S-band communication services in the country.
23. **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** spacecraft **LADEE** (Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer) confirmed the presence of **Neon gas** in Moon's atmosphere.
24. Global satellite called **GlobalSat** for DRR was in news as it was proposed to be named after former Indian President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who died on 27 July 2015.  
**Note:** The satellite to be used for earth observation and disaster risk reduction will be renamed as UN Kalam GlobalSat.
25. **Airbus Helicopters** join hands with **Mahindra Defence** to produce helicopters in India in order to meet the country's military requirements.  
**Note:** The joint venture aims to become the first private Indian helicopter manufacturer under the 'Make in India' initiative.
26. The World's Largest Radio Telescope, Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST), is being constructed in Guizhou province of south west China.
27. Earth-like exoplanet **Kepler 452b** was discovered by Kepler Mission by NASA.
28. The world's first malaria vaccine called **RTS,S or Mosquirix** got approval from European Medicines Agency (EMA).

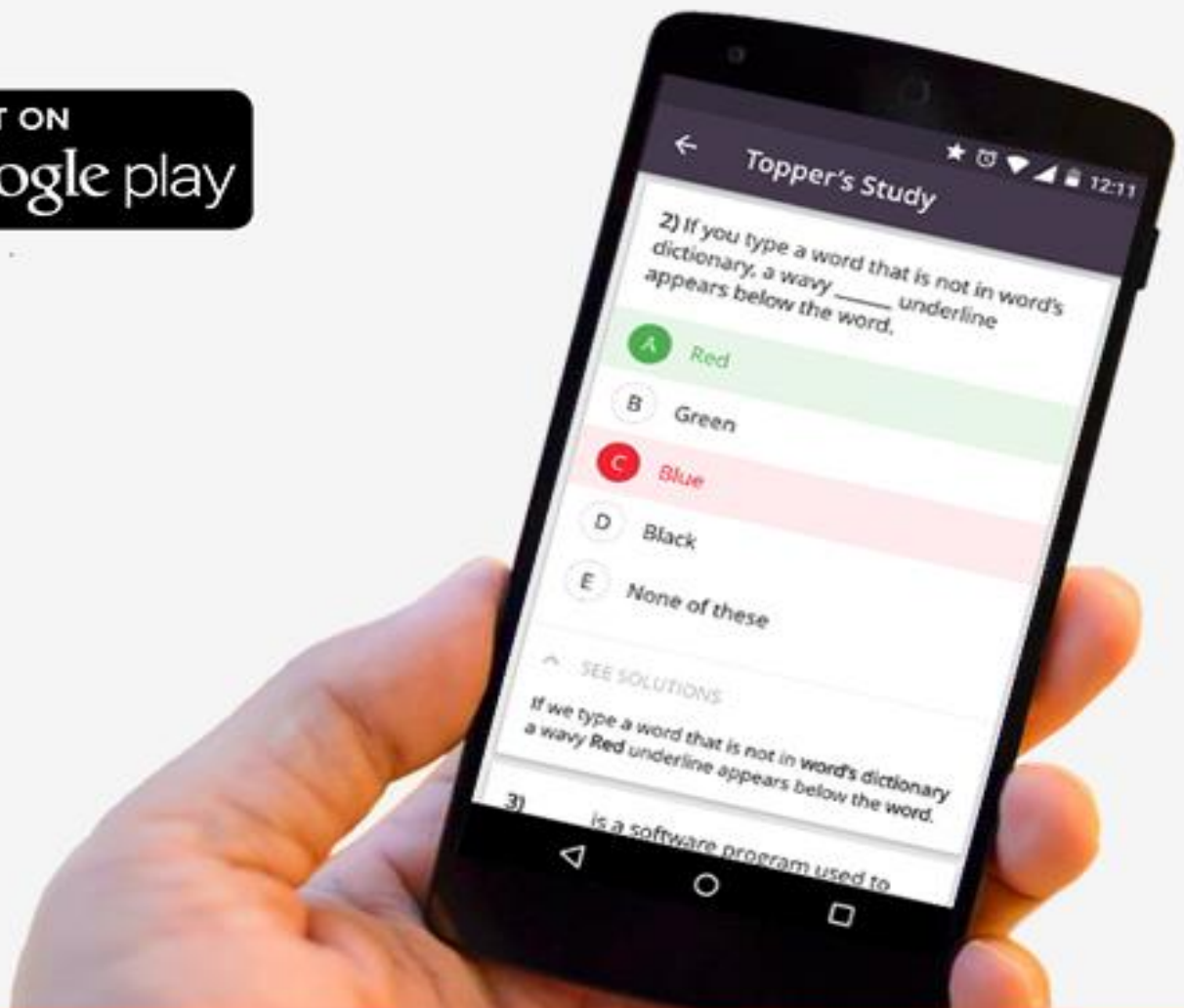
29. Indigenous Visibility Measuring System, **DRISHTI**, installed at IGI Airport in New Delhi.
30. Pakistan test-fired ballistic missile **Ghauri**, which is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a distance of 1,300 kilometres.
31. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched **five British satellites** into space from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikotta.  
**Note:** (i) These satellites are three identical **DMC3 optical earth observation satellites and two auxiliary satellites, viz., CBNT-1 and De-OrbitSail.**  
 (ii) These all satellites, built by Surrey Satellite Technology Limited (SSTL) and weighing 1440-kg, were launched aboard the 13th flight (PSLV-C28) of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
32. **An Earthquake Warning System (EWS)** successfully installed in **Uttarakhand, Dehradun**. With this, Uttarakhand became first Indian state to install a system that can detect earthquakes and disseminate warnings.
33. Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju launched Gagan satellite-based navigation system for the use by the aviation industry. India become the fourth country after the US, Europe and Japan globally to do so.  
**Note:** GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) is a satellite-based navigation system which provides autonomous, high precision geo-spatial location information of the user in terms of latitude, longitude and height along with velocity and time
34. **INS Astravahini**, indigenously built torpedos launch and a recovery vessel was decommissioned after its service for almost 31 years to the nation. It was decommissioned in a ceremony held at the Ship Building Centre (V) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
35. **NASA developed 'robotic eel' to explore Jupiter's moon Europa:** NASA is developing a 'robotic eel' that could explore the icy water of Jupiter's moon Europa and power itself with energy derived from local magnetic fields. The goal is to enable amphibious exploration of gas-giant moons like Europa.

# Best wishes for your exams!

# A+

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